MILF leader cites threats to peace process

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2001 ★★ 64 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 246 ₱15

BSP predicts stronger peso

THE CENTRAL bank governor yesterday predicted the peso would continue to strengthen against the US dollar amid a crackdown on commercial banks found violating foreign exchange regulations.

"We expect the peso to improve over time. I think that for the next couple of months it will

BSP/ A19

Ping's cell phone traced to 'drug lord'

Lacson: It's another Kim Wong

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

A SUSPECTED Chinese drug lord has allegedly been paying for some of the cellular phone bills of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson Jr. since he was Philippine National Police chief, military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus said yesterday.

Corpus said he has phone company records showing that the suspect, Kamsin Wong, aka Kim Wong, paid for the bills of a Smart cell phone "vanity number" that Lacson used when he was PNP chief: 09189717171. The number "71" supposedly represents the year 1971, when Lacson's class graduated from the Philippine Military Academy.

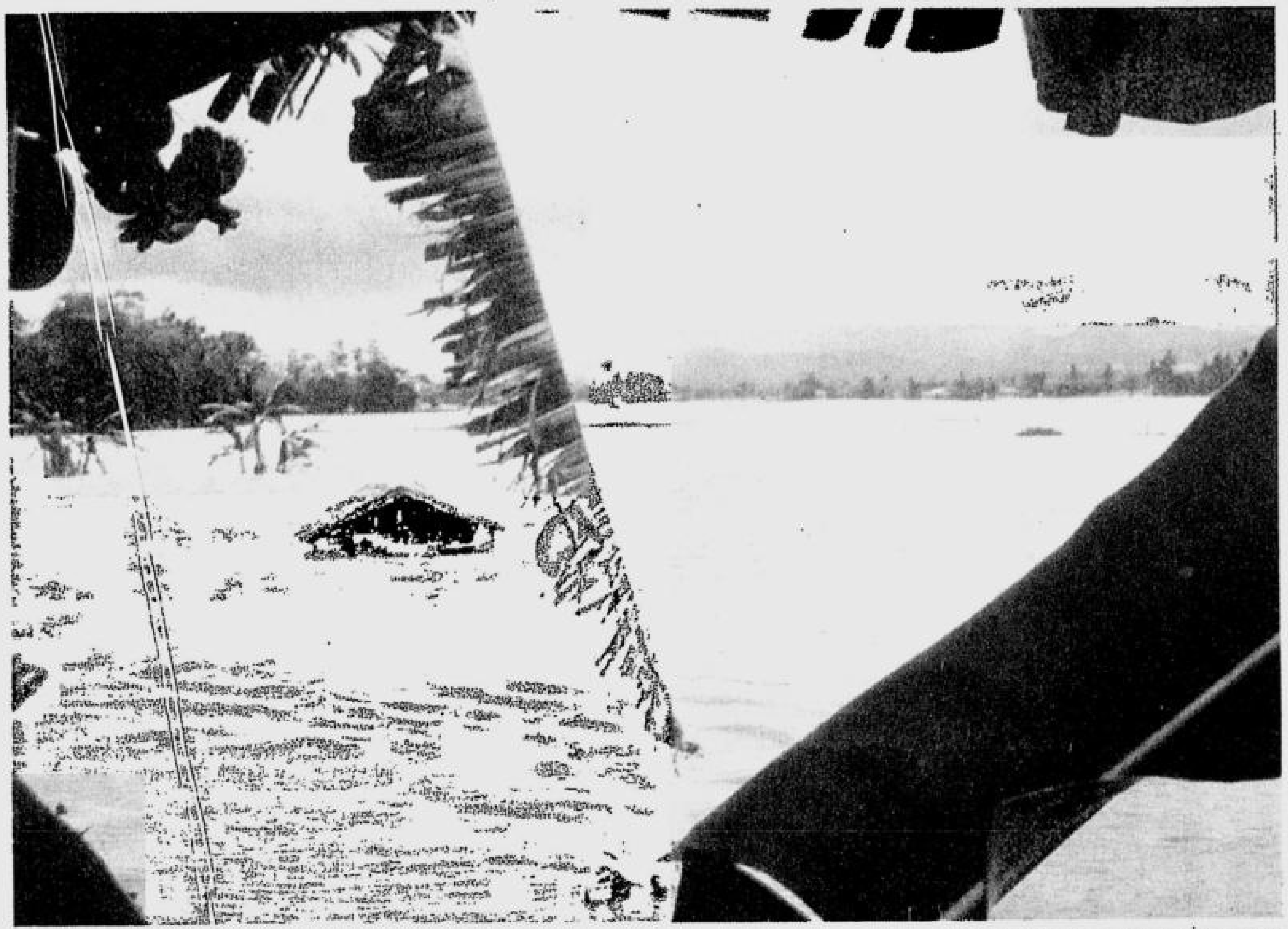
According to Corpus, head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, it is one of the numbers the senator still uses, but Lacson told the INQUIRER that he had stopped using it.

The Isafp chief said he has included the records in an official report that he is preparing to submit to President Macapagal-Arroyo detailing his purported evidence of Lacson's alleged involvement in money laundering and international drug trafficking.

He did not show the INQUIRER the documents, except for a record titled "call details" listing the cell phone number as one of several "service numbers" under Kim Wong's name.

Sought for comment, Lacson said the phone did come from a Chinese-Filipino businessman and

PING'S/ A20



HERNAN P. DELA CRUZ/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

A thatched house is submerged in Barangay Esperanza, Ramon Magsaysay town in Zamboanga del Sur as flash floods hit at least four provinces in Mindanao on Sunday. At least five persons have been reported missing. *(See story in Across the Nation, Page A14.)*

Massive 'no' seen in ARMM plebiscite

BY PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

DAVAO CITY—A massive Christian "no" vote is shaping up for tomorrow's plebiscite on expanding the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"I think there will be a massive vote against joining the ARMM," said North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol.

About 4.9 million registered Muslim and Christian voters in 11 Mindanao provinces, including North Cotabato, and 14 cities will be asked if they favor the inclusion of their area in the ARMM.

Ten of those provinces and all the cities are dominated by Christians.

Only four predor[illegible]ntly Muslim provinces—M[illegible]indanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi—at present comprise the ARMM headed by Gov. Nur Misuari, a former Moro rebel leader.

Presidential peace adviser Eduardo Ermita said that, at best, one province and two cities dominated by Muslims might vote to join the ARMM.

"This plebiscite will show that only a few areas will go for this autonomy," Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat said.

In Davao del Sur, Gov. Reynerio Llanos said his province had "rejected its inclusion in the ARMM in the past plebiscite and we were proven right when we did that."

"There's no reason for us to join now," Llanos said. "Peace will be determined by the development of a place and not whether it is part of the ARMM."

Isabela City Mayor Luis Biel II predicted his constituents would

MASSIVE/ A20

AFP sending 3 more battalions to Basilan

BY CARLITO PABLO AND TJ BURGONIO

THE MILITARY is throwing three more battalions into the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

The reinforcements are on top of the eight Army and Marine battalions, comprising some 5,000 men, that are currently deployed in the war-ravaged province.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Armed Forces spokesperson, said the top brass was studying which areas in the country to pull the battalions from.

"This is (what) we are studying," said Adan, noting that the AFP was also fighting communist rebels in Luzon and the Visayas.

The military has come under heavy criticism for failing to neutralize the Abu Sayyaf and rescue the Filipino and foreign hostages that the group is holding.

Instead, the bandits have given the military the slip several times, dragging the crisis on for months.

Compounding the problem were allegations made recently that military officials had taken a bribe to allow Abu Sayyaf members to flee a surrounded hospital compound in Lamitan, Basilan.

Cirilo Nacorda, a Basilan-based Catholic priest who was twice held hostage by the bandit group, accused five officers of conniving with the Abu Sayyaf to allow them to escape certain capture.

Although the Office of the Inspector General has cleared the officers of wrongdoing, a top-level revamp in the Department of Na-

AFP/ A20

HANDANG-HANDA NA KAMI D'YAN!
PATI TAGA-TIKIM HANDA NA RIN!!

Baguio eyes Guinness with largest salad

BY VINCENT CABREZA AND FRANK CIMATU
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Local farmers and Baguio's top chefs plan to feed more than 1,000 people here with the largest and heaviest serving of Caesar's Salad on Sept. 1, Baguio Day, to beat a Guinness world record set last year.

BAGUIO/ A19

Erap projects benefited mostly rich, middle class

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

FOLLOWING the May 1 rebellion of the urban poor, incited by pro-Estrada opposition agitators, expressions of concern for the poor have been amplified to thunderous proportions.

These expressions have come from non-government organizations that make up the so-called civil society, the business community (which has a paranoid fear of mob rule), the Macapagal administration and deposed President Joseph Estrada and his cohorts.

Both President Macapagal-Arroyo and Estrada, even though he is under detention, are fighting for the hearts and minds of the poor as a political constituency.

However, a World Bank survey of people's perception as targets or "clients" of the "pro-poor" social services of post-Marcos administrations reveals a wide gap between goals and delivery of services.

In particular, the World Bank found that the Estrada administration's poverty alleviation flagship program, Lingap para sa Mahirap (Caring for the Poor), benefited the middle-income group and the rich more than the poor.

The survey, "The Filipino Report Card on Pro-Poor Services," captures the citizens' assessment of Lingap. It was conducted on March 26 to April 27, 2000, on 1,200 respondents nationwide during the Estrada administration.

The survey has a different perspective than most poverty measurement studies. It measured client satisfaction of the poverty program.

It was taken from the "bottom-up" perspective rather than the "top-bottom" perspective of bureaucrats and ivory-tower

ERAP/ A19

'Big John' bids empire goodbye

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

"BIG John" has bid his empire goodbye.

Until a surprise party on his 75th birthday last Saturday, taipan John Gokongwei Jr. had never given a straight answer to "the retirement question."

But on Aug. 11, in front of around 400 guests led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, "Mr. John," as the tycoon is fondly known, announced that he would hang up his crown as the emperor of JG Summit Holdings at the end of the year.

"I'm retiring as chairman on Dec. 31, 2001," he told relatives and friends who had come to celebrate the birthday of one of the titans of Philippine business.

Lance said his father thought the family would not bother throwing him a big birthday bash.

"A man known for great gut feel could not even sense his own birthday party. Dad, maybe it's a signal that you should retire," Lance said affectionately in a speech.

Mr. John's brother Johnson Go said Gokongwei might seem intimidating, but he told the delighted crowd that the industrialist was once just "a cute, chubby little baby."

The taipan has chosen to leave his empire in the able hands of his

BIG/ A20

JOHN Gokongwei Jr. (seated), patriarch of the business empire, is flanked by his successor and brother James (right) and only son Lance.

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Second FRONT PAGE

MERONG HUMAHADLANG SA KAPAYAPAAN!

MILF cites threats to peace deal

KUALA LUMPUR—A leader of a Moro separatist rebel group that signed a ceasefire agreement with the Philippine government last week says that the deal could face opposition from vested interests in the military and Philippine Congress.

Murad Eibrahim, chief of staff of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, was quoted by the Malaysian news agency Bernama as saying that peace would affect promotions in the armed forces and politicians who built up their careers with the aid of the long civil war.

The rebel group signed a Malaysian-brokered ceasefire agreement with President Macapagal-Arroyo's government Tuesday, a major step toward ending decades of fighting in Mindanao.

"If she is sincere in the peace process and negotiations, she should prevail upon these people," Murad was quoted as saying. Bernama reported that the interview was conducted in recent days.

The agreement lays down details of a ceasefire. Further talks will cover economic development in Muslim regions wrecked during the years of fighting for independence from the largely Roman Catholic country.

Murad said that the people in the South must immediately witness the situation on the ground return to normal and feel secure as a result of the agreement for the cease-fire to succeed.

"In the past, there are many agreements," Murad was quoted as saying. "The problem is, they remain on paper. There is no implementation, so there is no change in the situation of the people."

The larger Moro National Liberation Front made peace with Manila in 1996. The agreement with the Islamic Front leaves the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang as the last armed Muslim separatists still fighting.

Abu Sayyaf has raided Malaysia and the Philippines for hostages, including foreign tourists. The group currently holds dozens of captives, among them at least two Americans.

Ms Macapagal has refused to negotiate ransom with the group, but refused at a news conference Thursday to close the door to peace talks. *AP*

MURAD: "If she is sincere in the peace process and negotiations, she should prevail upon these people."

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Palace backs probe of P330-M 'Christmas bonanza' at SSS

MALACAÑANG will support an investigation into another brewing controversy at the Social Security System.

Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco said yesterday "Malacañang supports all efforts to unearth the truth about mismanagement at the SSS in the past two years."

Capco made the announcement in the wake of a Commission on Audit report that said SSS officials had spent more than P330 million in 1999 and 2000 for "Christmas expenses."

The amount was on top of bonuses of P235.1 million and "incentive" awards of P211 million given to SSS officers and employees in addition to the P1.2 billion paid out to them in salaries last year.

Surigao Rep. Robert Ace Barbers said the matter of the "Christmas expenses" should be investigated to determine if they went to bonuses for top SSS officials.

He said he had no objection if the money was divided among rank and file SSS employees, instead of the "fat cats" at the government financial institution.

Barbers said he would file a resolution asking the House committee on good government to look into the latest mess at the SSS.

An investigation of the quasi-government agency had been scheduled in the House of Representatives in the wake of the recent mass actions of its officers and employees that resulted in the ouster of SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas.

"In fact, Nañagas was investigating the (Christmas) issue" when he was forced to step down, Barbers said.

Nañagas, who had been appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, was forced to resign after SSS employees, egged on by certain agency officials, threatened a massive nationwide strike if he did not step down.

Nañagas was accused by the rank and file of being an arrogant and high-handed manager and of planning to privatize the agency, thus throwing many of them out of work.

His ouster, however, was believed to have been orchestrated by career officials at the agency who wanted to prevent an investigation ordered by Nañagas into their roles in the lending of vast amounts of SSS money to cronies of deposed President Joseph Estrada during the latter's administration.

That investigation has been ordered continued by President Macapagal. *Martin P. Marfil*

Rains slow down hunt for Abus

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Torrential rains yesterday slowed down soldiers on the trail of Abu Sayyaf kidnappers holding 18 captives, following a successful rescue of three Filipino hostages, officials said.

The stormy weather forced Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to postpone a trip to Basilan island, where some 5,000 soldiers have been scouring its vast central jungles for nearly three months.

He instead sought a briefing with military commanders at the armed forces Southern Command here.

"The weather is a big factor in every rescue or offensive operation and it has been raining here the past days. The military operation has slowed down, but troops continue moving and searching for the hostages and the terrorists," Army spokesperson Maj. Alberto Gepilano said. *AFP*

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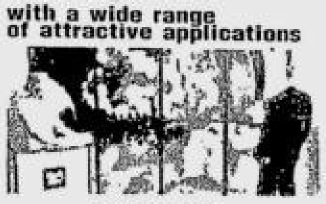

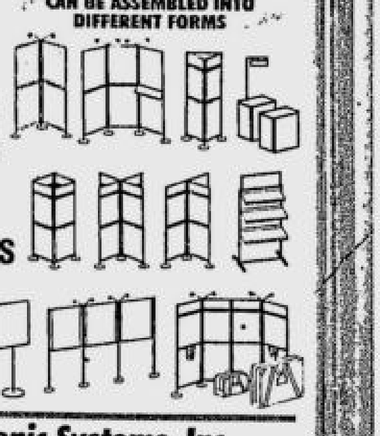

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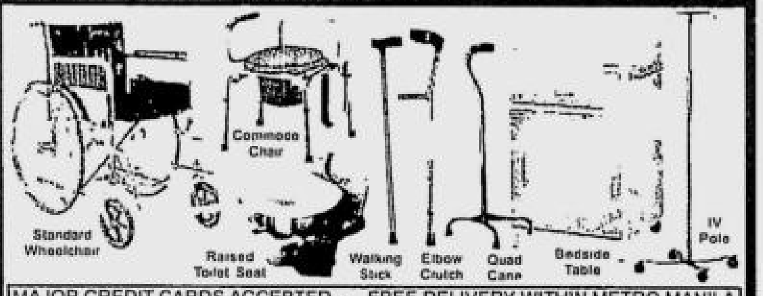

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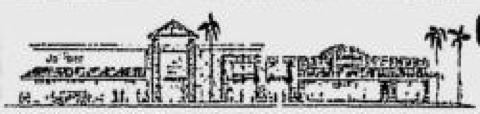

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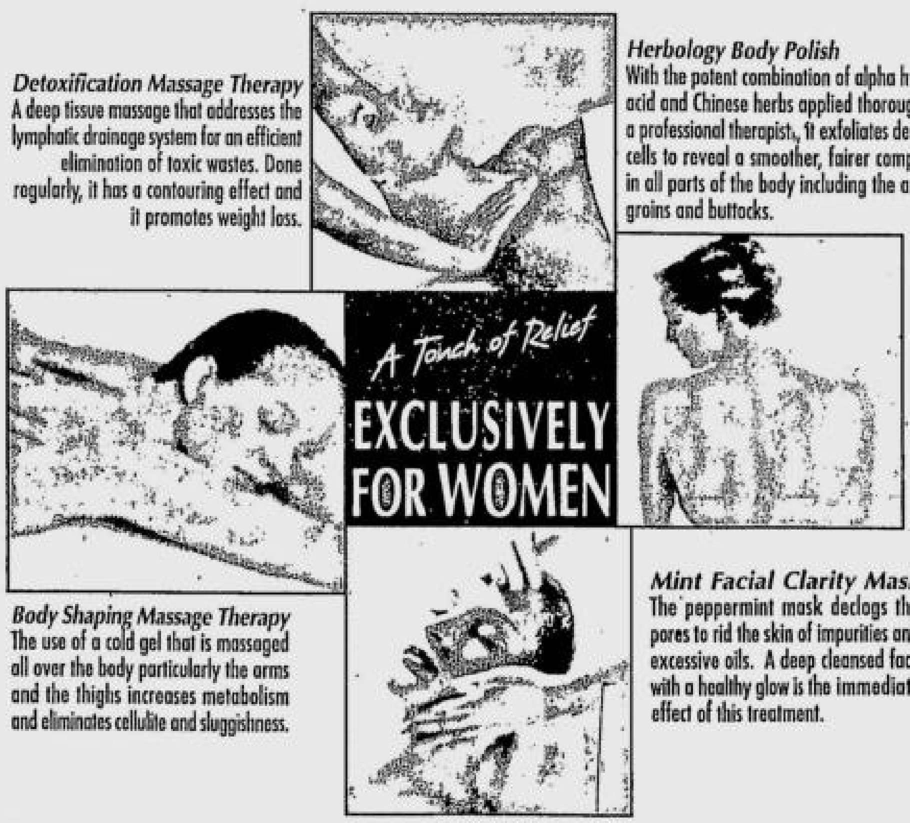

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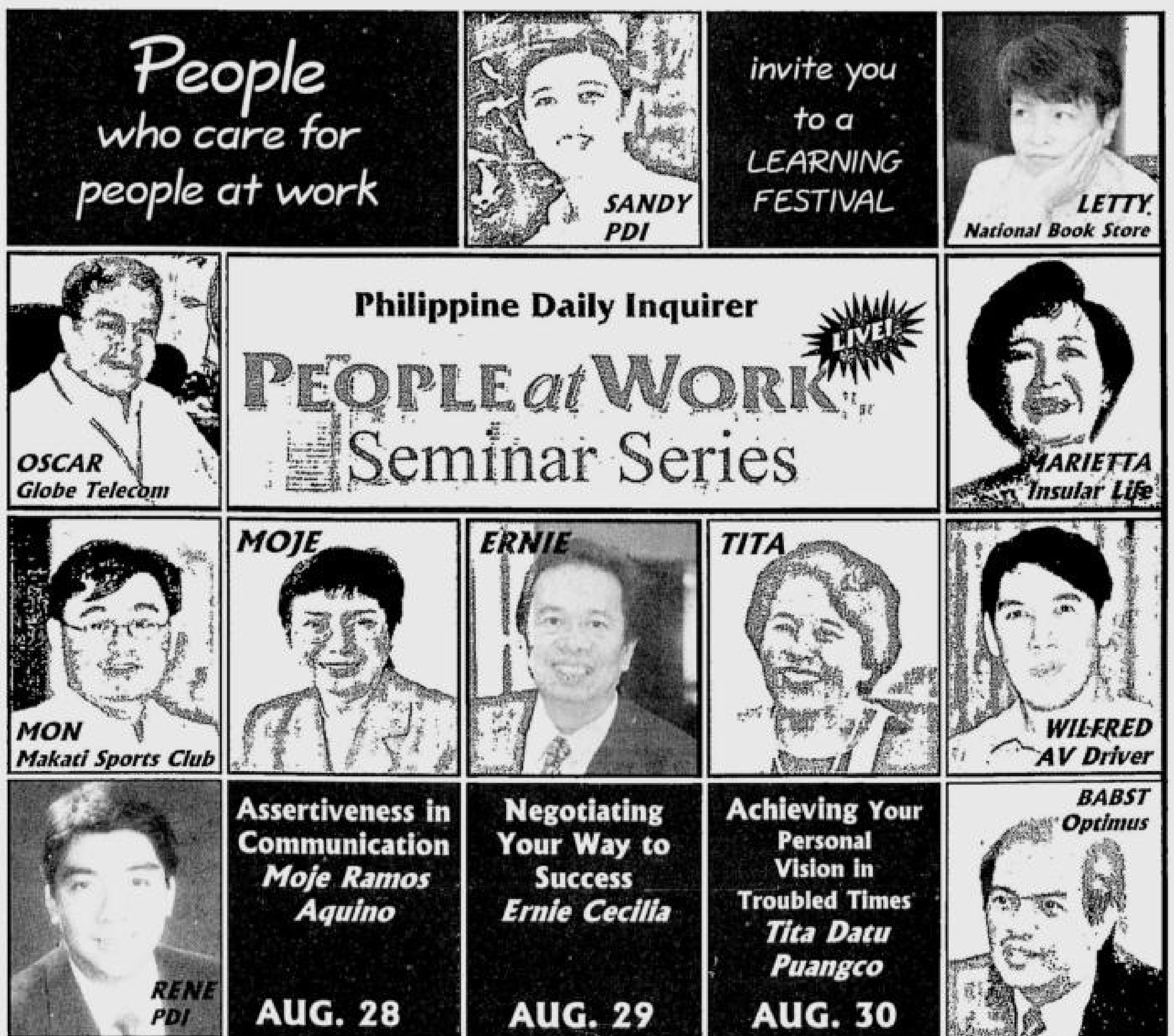

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JDV wants gov't subsidy for political parties

By Rocky Nazareno

IN A BID to stamp out corruption in high and low office, Speaker Jose de Venecia proposes that the government subsidize political parties and thereby keep dirty money out of election campaigns.

De Venecia has filed a bill, the Campaign Finance Reform Act, that seeks to provide campaign funds for political parties from the public purse.

"This has long been the practice in the United States and other developed countries," De Venecia said.

He said the proposed law would discourage political parties from accepting contributions from illegal or tainted sources.

"We have to stop drug and gambling lords from influencing our political parties and public policy by financing electoral campaigns," De Venecia said.

With government subsidizing political parties, the party system would be strengthened as it would allow party members, even those without money, "to concentrate on their pledge to serve the interest of the people instead of having to worry about reelection expenses," said De Venecia.

"What we will invest in political party subsidies would surely pale in comparison to the level of corruption without the reform measure in place," he said.

The Campaign Finance Reform Act is one of more than three dozen measures included in the proposed legislative agenda for the 12th Congress.

The agenda also lists, among other priorities, the Anti-Money Laundering Act, amendments to the Dangerous Drugs Act, Financial Sector Tax Reform Package and the Fair Competition Act.

True Marcos Loyalists not quite true and loyal after all

Party willing to change its name if…

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THEY are not a cult, they insist. Nor are they quite the die-hard supporters of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos as their name proclaims, it would seem.

Questioning a Commission on Elections ruling disqualifying the True Marcos Loyalists Association of the Philippines from the party-list roster for being a "cult of personality," the group said it was willing to change its name.

"Nowhere in the (True Marcos Loyalists') by-laws nor in its platform does is provide that the primary requirement for membership in the organization is loyalty to the deceased Ferdinand E. Marcos," the group said in a 15-page comment filed before the Supreme Court on Friday.

"If the only reason why the respondent (True Marcos Loyalists) was unfairly and erroneously adjudged and disqualified was because its name gives a wrong impression that its purpose is to glorify the late president Marcos, then the respondent is more than willing to change its name," the group said.

Lawyer Sixto Brillantes said it was never the intention of the group to glorify Marcos but only his "noble ideas." He said members of the True Marcos Loyalists are "true nationalists who aspire to help build country inspired by the spirit of *isang bansa isang diwa* and who believe in the ideals of the late President Marcos."

Brillantes said the group was not being supported, whether directly or indirectly, by the Marcos family and does not intend to protect the interest of the Marcoses.

The group said its membership was open to everyone from the marginalized and under-represented sector, whatever their political belief or affiliation.

The group's nominees who Brilliantes said actually belonged to various marginalized and under-represented sectors were: Serafia Cobbarubias, a farmer's daughter from Samar; Galileo Kintanar, a retired military officer; and Rita Gaddi-Baltazar, a self-employed writer and former government employee.

The True Marcos Loyalists was one of 17 party-list groups in the top 24 of the party-list canvass which the Comelec disqualified for failing to meet the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court.

In its report to the SC last July, the Comelec said the True Marcos Loyalists cannot be considered an organization truly representing the marginalized and underprivileged groups since its primary requirement for membership was loyalty to Marcos.

The group has asked the SC to set aside the Comelec report so it may be declared qualified to participate in party-list elections.

However, the group managed to get only 171,140 votes, or 1.14 percent of the total votes cast, which is short of the required minimum of two percent to get a seat in the House.

Mothballed nuke plant costs gov't P2B a year

IT doesn't produce a single watt of electricity—a gas lamp would give out more energy—yet the mothballed Bataan nuclear power plant is costing the national government P2 billion a year.

"We shouldn't allow this to happen again," said Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, who pointed out it is costing the government P6 million a day to pay off its debts on the plant. At that rate, the loan would be paid in the year 2018.

"That's (more than) a whole generation paying off debts they did not make," Barbers said.

Debts incurred in the building of the nuclear plant are among those being serviced by the government, which for 2002 has allotted P204 billion—or nearly a third of the P780-billion proposed national budget—for repaying its loans.

Next year, the government will pay $43 million, or P2.195 billion based on a P51 to $1 exchange rate, to five institutions that financed the nuclear plant project.

"This should be a fitting reminder to us that such huge contracts should be further scrutinized and studied before (being undertaken), before we find out that we can do nothing about it anymore," Barbers said.

The Bataan nuclear power plant was a major showcase of the Marcos regime. The project proponent, the US' Westinghouse Inc., was later accused of giving kickbacks to Marcos and several of his cronies in order to get the project.

After its construction was rushed despite protests by anti-nuclear activists and those who saw through the anomalous transactions, it was discovered that the plant's reactor had been built on an earthquake fault. *Rocky Nazareno*

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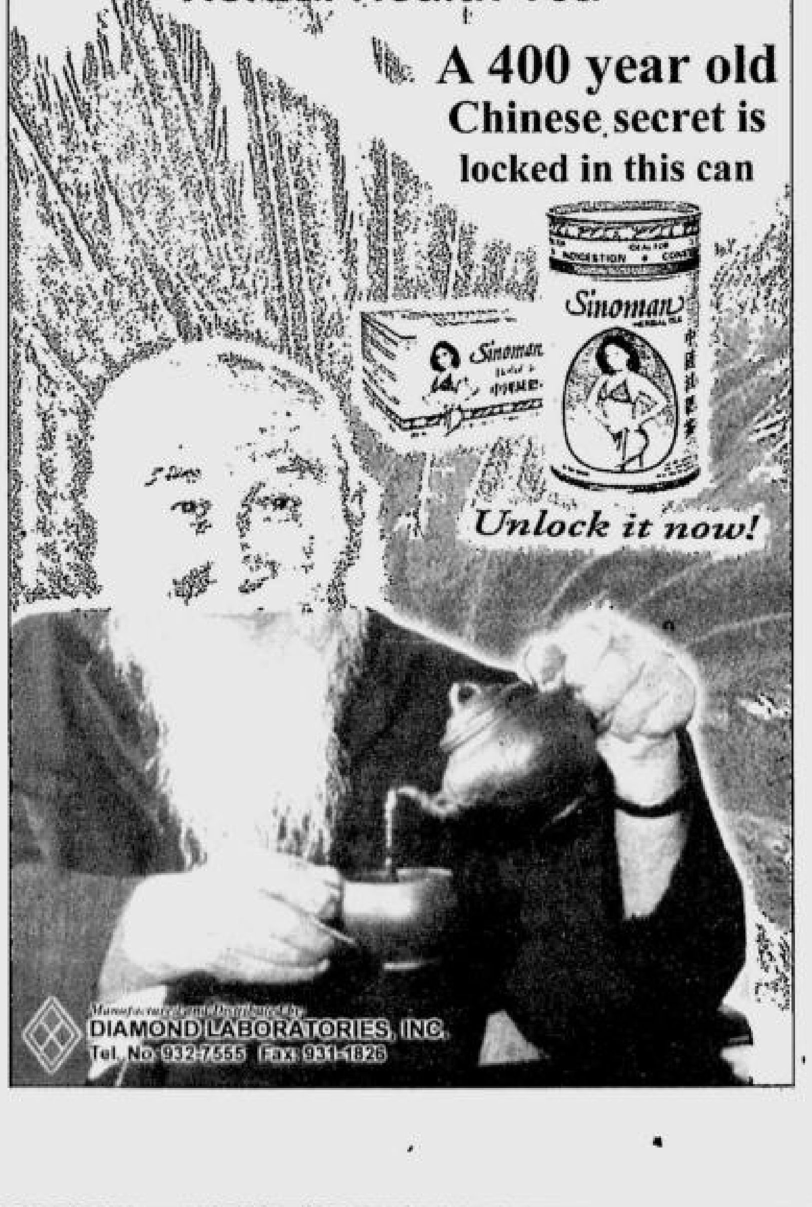
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Senate row over; no more filibustering for Serge O

By Christine Avendaño

SENATE President Franklin Drilon yesterday said he hoped the decision of Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda to defer acceptance of a second committee chairmanship each would be acceptable to the minority.

Drilon said he had not personally spoken to Villar or Legarda, but noted that their decision showed that the two top Senate officers were willing to work for the greater good.

In separate interviews yesterday, Villar and Legarda said they would defer taking up the second committee chairmanships to allow the Senate to start work.

The majority coalition has been constrained from organizing some 25 committees because of the minority's objection to Villar's and Legarda's heading two committees.

The two Senate officers said their decision could perhaps allow the majority bloc to organize the 23 other committees.

Told of Villar's and Legarda's new position, opposition Sen. Serge Osmeña III said he would no longer resort to filibustering as he did last week, ostensibly to oppose the two senators' gaining extra committee chairmanships, when the Senate resumes its session today.

Instead, Osmeña said he plans to take the floor to nominate majority Sen. Joker Arroyo as chair of the blue ribbon committee.

"I've never objected to the 23 committee chairmanships (given to the majority)," he said in a phone interview.

"I will nominate the senators of the 23 committees… so it's not true what the majority has been unfairly saying that I have been single-handedly stopping the reorganization."

Osmeña reiterated that in the absence of an explicit Senate rule, tradition has allowed the top Senate officers to take second committee chairmanships by "unanimous consent" of senators.

Opposition Sen. Vicente Sotto said the minority's stand is for the Senate to proceed electing the Senate majority committee chairmanships except those on banks and accounts, the committees that would have gone to Villar and Legarda in addition to those they already chair.

Villar has been nominated to head the agriculture committee while Legarda has been elected as rules committee chair, making her the majority leader.

In a separate interview, Legarda said Osmeña was "not entirely wrong" when he made his assertion because there have been cases where Senate president pro tempores and majority leaders were allowed to take second committee chairmanships by unanimous consent of senators.

But she noted the majority was "also correct" when it asserted that the Senate president pro tempores and majority leaders can hold two committee chairmanships as there have been occasions in the past where unanimous consent was not required.

"Unanimous consent was used and sometimes not used in previous congresses," Legarda said.

She said that her Senate staff and the Senate legislative office has come up with a study on this issue which the majority coalition would take up in a caucus at noon today before the resumption of the session.

In a phone interview, Villar said the majority bloc was firm in rejecting that the minority bloc's "interpretation" on the issue of unanimous consent as this would give the minority bloc virtual "veto power."

In a radio interview earlier yesterday, Villar told RMN radio that his and Legarda's decision was meant to "balance the interest of the people" as well.

He said he didn't want the committee chairmanship issue to further divide the Senate as both majority and minority sides have to work on other issues.

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Militant group slams JDV idea

A MILITANT fisherfolk group yesterday slammed Speaker Jose de Venecia for proposing to negotiate with businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and the Marcos family to settle long-drawn claims by the government on the P100-billion coconut levy and the ill-gotten wealth of the former dictator.

In a statement, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) charged that, under De Venecia's proposal, government would "let raiders of state funds and national wealth escape from their prime accountabilities to the people."

"This is the grandmother of all political betrayals," Pumalakaya said.

Pamalakaya also chided De Venecia for urging Malacañang to avail of the $12.5-billion foreign aid outlined by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to boost fund sourcing for President Macapagal-Arroyo's anti-poverty program.

"His suggestions are half-witted and anti-people. What De Venecia wants is offensive and ostensibly against the will of the people," said Pamalakaya national chair Rodolfo Sambajon.

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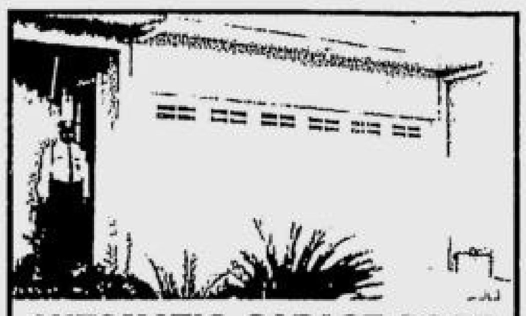

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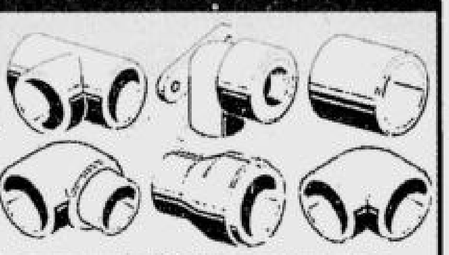

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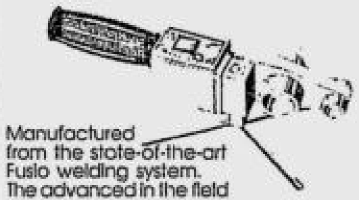

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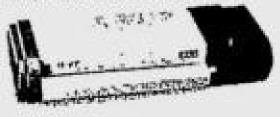

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Opposition trains guns on Cayetano

THE SPOKESPERSON of the opposition Puwersa ng Masa, Jesus Crispin Remulla, yesterday urged the Senate blue ribbon committee to investigate allegations that administration Sen. Renato Cayetano earned more than P52-million from trading in BW Resources shares last year.

In a press statement detailing remarks made at Saturday's Kapihan sa Sulo, Remulla said Cayetano's transactions must be investigated "to erase suspicions that the Senate was trying to cover up" allegations that First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo received P50-million bribe for the recall of a vetoed telecommunications franchise bill.

Remulla said he had written to Sen. Joker Arroyo, the blue ribbon committee chairman, to investigate Cayetano who, he said, "clearly profited from the BW transactions two years ago and last year" but was not investigated by his fellow senators.

Remulla claimed to have "facts and evidence" on Cayetano, implying that the transactions may not have been aboveboard and that the senator may have been involved in the irregular trading of BW shares which almost caused the collapse of the stock market last year.

Cayetano, meanwhile, dismissed Remulla's allegations as "nothing more than an act of political vendetta. Obviously, some former officials of the previous administration want us tormented for our role during the Senate impeachment trial of (deposed president) Estrada," Cayetano said in a press statement.

Cayetano admitted that he earned "a bundle" trading in BW shares in 1999. But he maintained that he simply joined hundreds of legitimate stock market investors who bought and sold BW shares during the trading frenzy.

"In fact, during the Senate impeachment trial, we were vindicated by Securities and Exchange Commission officials who testified that all of our transactions involving BW shares were aboveboard," Cayetano said.

He said he has been an active player in the stock market for years and was willing to have his investment portfolio scrutinized "in the interest of transparency."

"If it is a crime for public officials to invest in the stock market, then the SEC should now disclose the names of all senators, congressmen and other officials who bought and made money out of BW shares," Cayetano argued.

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31 Pinoys jailed in UAE seek help

THIRTY-ONE Filipino sailors jailed in the United Arab Emirates for alleged non-payment of loans have sought transfer to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration center in Abu Dhabi.

The seafarers cited subhuman conditions in jail for the past six months as reason for their request, Owwa Administrator Wilhelm Soriano said.

The sailors blamed their Indian finance officer who allegedly used them to obtain loans from banks in Abu Dhabi but failed to settle the accounts.

Soriano said he would again ask authorities in Abu Dhabi to release the Filipinos to the temporary custody of the Owwa center there.

Abu Dhabi officials rejected an earlier request for fear that the Filipinos might sneak out to Manila while under the custody of the Owwa.

The sailors, together with the Indian finance officer, were arrested in February this year following the filing of estafa charges against them. The charges stemmed from their alleged non-payment of bank loans ranging from $2,000 to $5,000, according to Soriano.

He said the sailors claimed that they were duped by the Indian, identified only as Peter, into signing some papers which turned out to be loan applications with the banks.

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Asia rejects nightmare vision of cloned humans

HONG KONG—Much of Asia recoiled in horror as Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" moved closer to reality with Italian embryologist Severino Antinori's plans for "designer babies" cloned in the image of their parent.

Muslims in Indonesia and Pakistan, Buddhists in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Thailand and Roman Catholics in the Philippines spoke with one voice when they said human cloning was meddling with the laws of nature.

"Who do they think they are, they are not gods," said a government official in predominantly Buddhist Taiwan, referring to Antinori and his colleagues who said they would within weeks begin to clone a human being, with the aim of offering hope to sterile couples.

According to Antinori, the nucleus of a woman's body cell is transferred into one of her eggs to begin the process, which eventually leads to the creation of an embryo.

The embryo is then transferred into the woman's uterus to establish pregnancy.

"It is against the laws of nature," said another Taiwanese official, surnamed Shih. "A baby should be born of two sets of genes, not one."

Buddhists believe in reincarnation and according to the Hong Kong Buddhist Association life starts when the soul reaches the body.

"This life is determined by what you did in your last life," said a spokeswoman, adding that the nuns and monks found the concept of "human duplication" so incomprehensible that they did not want to talk about it.

Scientists have warned that cloning humans is infinitely trickier than cloning an animal. They fear that the by-product of creating one healthy human child will be the hundreds of deformed or abnormal human embryos that will have to be culled.

In the Philippines, where the Roman Catholic Church has a huge influence, bishops have equated this destruction as tantamount to murder.

"It is the subject of human rights, foremost, which is the right to life," Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi said.

Yet the issue is equally charged among scientists who see human embryo research as crucial for curing diseases from Parkinson's to paralysis.

Hong Kong has banned human cloning while a draft law is before Taiwan's parliament, yet both are keen to develop their fledgling biotech industries, which rely upon cells taken from human embryos for research.

Draft laws are also being considered in Malaysia, Thailand and Australia.

In Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-populated nation with over 80 percent of its more than 210 million people following Islam, there is little to suggest that Antinori would be able to peddle human "photocopies" to infertile couples there.

"As you know yourself, this is an issue which is not acceptable to religions, including Islam," said Sri Astuti Sudarso Suparmanto who heads the health ministry's research and development board.

Pakistan, another devout Muslim country, said cloning interfered with God's will, which was a sin under Islamic law. "It should be banned," said a spokesperson for the main fundamentalist party, the Jamaat-i-Islami.

Even in China, where the administration is devoutly atheist, authorities said they opposed human cloning on ethical grounds.

Yet despite the outcry, only Japan has enacted legislation to outlaw human cloning, and many countries are facing pressure from scientists to allow research on human embryos.

In May, Japan's cloning law came into effect carrying a 10-year jail sentence for anyone caught trying to clone a human being and laid out strict guidelines for scientists on research on human embryos.

Gynecologist and artificial insemination expert Atsushi Tanaka in southern Tokyo said: "It is horrifying to think we would clone human beings despite the amount of negative data on cloning. *AFP*

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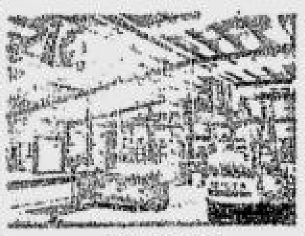
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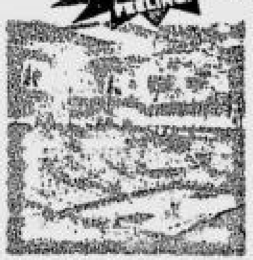
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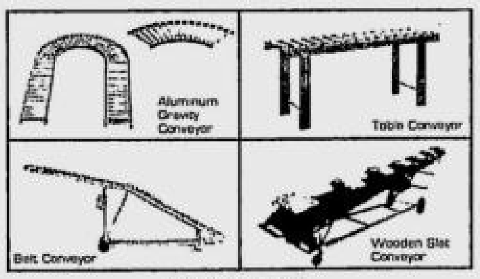

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Framework for autonomy

EDITORIAL

THE SIGNING of the ceasefire agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front restarts a peace dialogue that was disrupted last year when the previous administration launched an "all-out" war on the MILF.

It does not, however, return the process to where it stood at the outbreak of the war. At that time, the MILF held control of more than 40 camps. The ceasefire agreement, signed in Kuala Lumpur during President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit, is vague about the status of the camps.

Apparently, what to do with the camps would be one of the substantive issues that would be discussed in further negotiations. The government cannot now return the camps to the MILF without antagonizing the Armed Forces which have spent lives of soldiers and resources in the campaign.

There's a possible way out of the impasse—transform the camps into economic production zones which could blur over time the military element of the camps. The reality is that these camps are located in Muslim communities in Central Mindanao. Their male population could be farmers during the day and guerrillas during the night.

The most useful function of the agreement, aside from reviving the 1996 peace agreement, is that it establishes a more friendly environment for negotiations, unmarred by continuing combat.

The government negotiator does not claim much prospects for the agreement. "We hope this can provide a conducive atmosphere to carry out the next stage of negotiations to help realize the Macapagal administration's goal of rehabilitating the economy and improving the lives of the people in Mindanao," government negotiator, Jesus Dureza, said.

Stripped of its spin, the Mindanao accent of the truce is significant. This was emphasized by the President when she returned to Manila through the southern gateway. She said, "When I talked about peace, I talked about Mindanao." As we see in last year's Mindanao war, it left a heavy toll in human lives, destruction of local communities and devastation of economic resources.

The ceasefire faces risks of rash encounters. But the truce will be monitored by three representatives of the Organization of Islamic Conference—Libya, Indonesia and Malaysia.

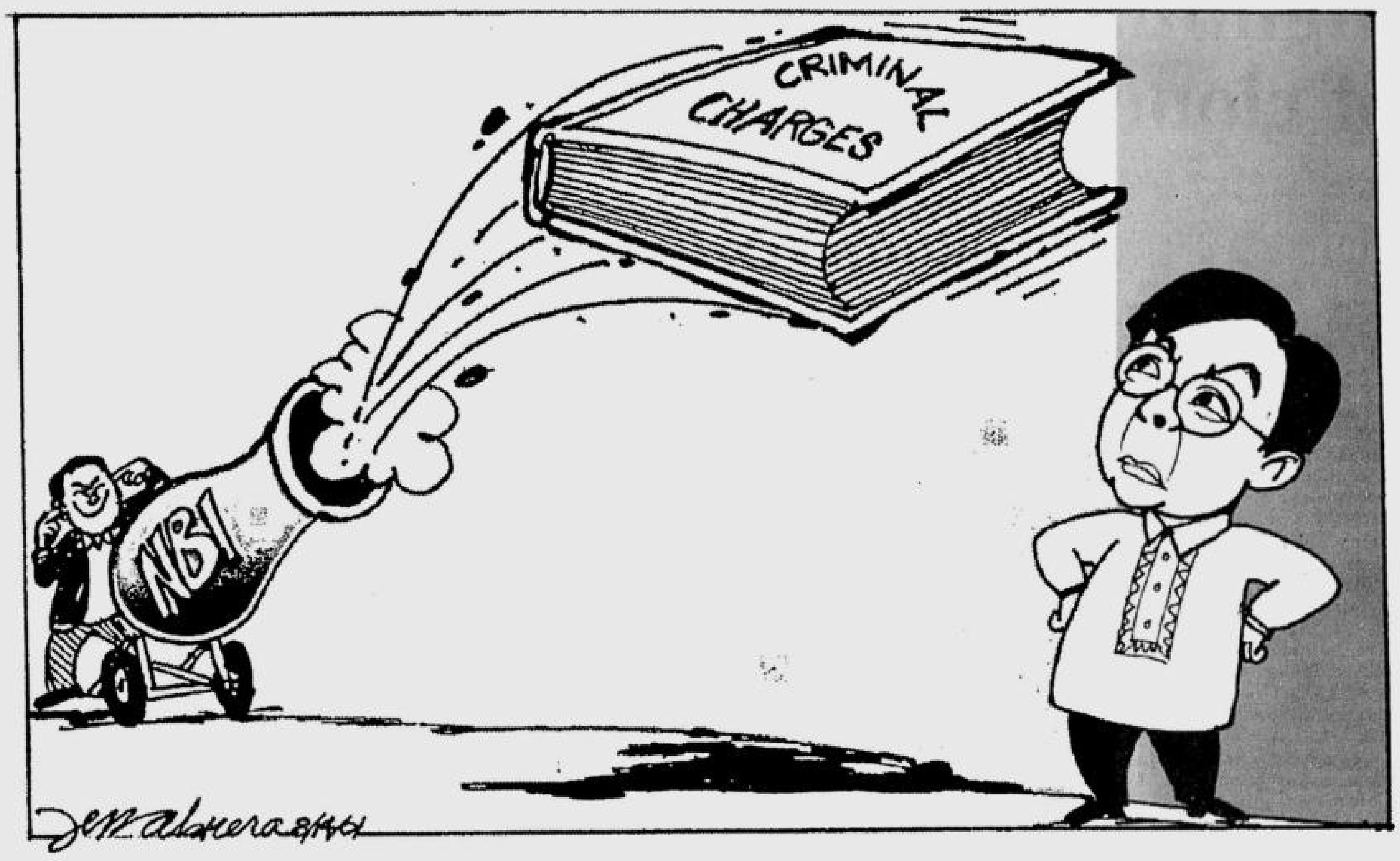
The agreement has to be seen in relation to a separate pact between the MILF and the Moro National Liberation Front, also in Kuala Lumpur, in which they agreed to present a common front in the negotiations with the government.

The pact does not mean that the MILF and the MNLF have dissolved their differences over approaches toward a framework in which they can effectively push their political demands with the government panel. The pact helps isolate the extremist wing of the Islamic separatist movement—the Abu Sayyaf. The OIC itself has condemned the terroristic actions of the Abu Sayyaf whose political aims toward a separate Islamic state in Mindanao have been overshadowed by its spate of hostage-taking, whose accent is to extract huge ransoms from its captives.

The ceasefire agreement has bought time for attacking an issue on which an enduring truce in Mindanao rests—the economic rehabilitation and development of that region. The Mindanao program needs an immediate injection of resources, credible enough to encourage negotiations through which the Muslim community can believe it can share the fruits of development.

The multinational programs assisted by Official Development Aid (ODA) are still in the pipeline. Of immediate impact is the Mal-mar Dam which is due for completion next month. The dam, located in Central Mindanao, the heartland of the MILF, is a pilot project to demonstrate that the economic underpinnings of peace can work. The dam could irrigate at least 5,000 hectares of agricultural land.

The two agreements signed in Malaysia provide a realistic framework in which the political issue of Muslim autonomy could now be channeled.



Roxas not under influence of drugs but of cement cartel

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TRADE Secretary Mar Roxas submitted himself to a drug test and was found negative. But the problem of Roxas is not with drugs but with cement. Yes, cement. He does not sniff or smoke it. But he protects the foreign-owned companies that produce it in the Philippines. There is nothing wrong with protecting Philippine companies, but the cement companies Roxas is protecting are cement giants in the world which are exploiting and victimizing Filipinos who, ironically, are their hosts here.

The cement cartel composed of Holderbank Financiere Claris, Ltd., Cemex SA, Lafarge SA, and Blue Circle Industries Plc., is dumping Philippine cement abroad at P40 or less per 40-kg bag but selling the same cement in the Philippines, where it is mined and processed, at P136 per bag, or almost P100 higher. It should be the other way around because the Philippines is the poorest of its customers. But the cartel is selling its cement to well-developed countries like Taiwan and the United States at only P40 per bag and milking the Filipinos to recover their losses.

Yet the members of the cartel have the temerity to accuse Taiwanese and South Korean cement exporters of "dumping," the very crime that they are committing. They ran crying to the Department of Trade and Industry appealing for protection. They asked the DTI to raise the tariff on cement by 50 percent. What this will do is raise the cost of infrastructure projects of the government, already laboring with huge budget deficits, and the cost of low-cost housing for the poor whom President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has promised to help.

But Trade Secretary Roxas, although not under the influence of drugs, is under the influence of the cement cartel. He is going to raise the tariff to protect the foreign-owned cartel victimizing his own people.

In the first place, Roxas' policies are contradictory. He is allowing the importation of cheap drugs from India because the prices of locally manufactured drugs are too high. Local pharmaceutical companies, both Filipino and foreign-owned will be adversely affected, but that policy is good because it would benefit the great majority of Filipinos.

In the case of cement, however, Roxas' policy is the opposite although the situation is exactly the same. Local cement, processed by foreign-owned companies, are priced too high and impoverishing not only poor Filipinos but the government itself. Competition from imports—like the imported drugs from India—would temper the greed of the cement cartel and give relief to the suffering Filipinos. But Roxas would rather protect the foreign-owned giants rather than the Filipino citizens he has sworn to protect and serve.

Roxas and the cartel are invoking the "safeguards" in the law against "dumping" but, in the words of Senate President Protempore Manny Villar (who, by the way, is going to backstop Sen. Juan Flavier in the Senate investigation of the cement cartel), those safeguards were for Filipino companies, not for foreigners victimizing Filipinos.

Whatever happened to Mar Roxas, son of the late Sen. Gerry Roxas?

* * *

Former Rep. Sergio Apostol, chair and CEO of the Energy Development Corp. (EDC), sent a letter defending that subsidiary of the Philippine National Oil Corp. from this column (As I See It, 8/3/01) who saw its project on the foothills of Mt. Kanlaon in Negros Occidental as a giant "white elephant."

Apostol wrote that prior to the passage of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act and the consequent privatization of the National Power Corp. (NPC), the EDC had already anticipated an "open market" for generated electricity and "all power plants will be merchant."

"The NPC for its part, had also been preparing for deregulation and privatization two years before the enactment of the law. It was made a policy in the NPC not to sign any power purchase agreement (PPA) with any independent power producer (IPP) in 1999 and this was subsequently confirmed by RA 3196 this year."

"In the next 4 or 5 years," Apostol said, "Negros Occidental is faced with the possibility of power shortages while a demand for 1,310 MW looms for the Visayas in the next 9 years. Only the 40-MW geothermal project of the PNOC-EDC is committed in the Philippine Energy Plan for the Visayas and this state firm is the only entity constructing a power plant in the province."

On the high costs of exploring and well development of the project, Apostol said that the P650 million ($12.5 million) spent so far to discover only 16 MW of steam, translates to $6 per barrel of displaced oil, still much cheaper than the current cost of crude oil at $25 per barrel.

"The PNOC-EDC has not cleared any virgin forest," Apostol clarified. "We have developed only 18 hectares and all are in private lands outside the Mt. Kanlaon park. We will only need 169 hectares out of the 24,577-hectare park for our resource and by using modern drilling technology, we can still limit the surface development to 30 to 50-hectares or a mere .2 percent of the park. The balance shall be enriched and maintained because being water-based, geothermal needs a healthy forest to sustain its resource and plant operation. We will not search for more steam beyond the allocated block because aside from the fact that the law restricts us, our preliminary analysis indicates that there is no more geothermal resource beyond the assigned block.

"The project's economics had been reviewed extensively by the DOF, Neda and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). Its benefit to the country is the major parameter of these agencies for approval. Government will not give a guarantee nor JBIC extend a loan if the project's economics is no good."

Dead weight

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

NO. 2295 California Street is in an upscale part of San Francisco, traversing Nob Hill, the nesting place of the rich, but is still quite a distance from it. The Golden Gate is just 15 minutes away by car. On a warm summer afternoon, a bracing wind blows from the sea and sends the Sports page of the San Francisco Chronicle that had been detached from the main body and had been lying on the sidewalk spinning madly into the air. No. 2295 California St. carries the name Lady Eleanor Apartments, which is what it is, an apartment building.

It is an impressive one. At least in taste, if not in size. It's a brownstone house, four stories high with high ceilings. It is fairly wide, stretching out about a dozen paces into the sidewalk. From outside, you see red brick all over, with streaks of white running in the middle of the building. The bay windows, rectangular squares nosing out of the façade, are white as well. Several newspapers, still bundled up and unopened, lie on the front door. Their owners do not seem eager to catch up with the day's news. Indeed, you can imagine that the residents of the apartment building have found sanctuary from the cares of the world in its bosom. A sense of refuge probably broken only when the bill for rent comes. It can't be small.

That is one of the properties in the US that Isafp chief Victor Corpus alleges belongs to Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Lacson himself has denied it vigorously and says it can be Corpus' if the latter can show proof he, Lacson, has deeds to the property. Maybe he might want to extend the offer to anyone who can do that? It would be nice to own a place like that.

It's a complete accident that I am here in San Francisco at the very moment Lacson has found himself in the eye of the storm over alleged properties and bank deposits here and in other parts of California. I have been invited to attend the Philippine Arts Festival, which opens this weekend, an event that proposes to showcase the best of the Philippines to America. Everybody seems to think it is a cover. If it makes them happy, I do not disabuse them of the thought.

But Lacson has a point about Corpus et al. needing to show a corpus of proof, or body of evidence, posthaste to back up his accusations. What was very impressive about those accusations when they first came out was their level of detail, down to the numbers of Lacson's (and Erap's) presumed accounts in Hong Kong and US banks, and the addresses of his presumed houses in California. What has not been very impressive about them since then is that they have remained accusations. Detailed ones, but still just accusations. Corpus has presented neither documentary evidence nor verbal corroboration from the banks and from US authorities to pin down Lacson (or Erap) in the deposits and real estate abroad. Citibank has already denied that Lacson and the Estradas hold deposits in the Hong Kong bank, which cannot possibly improve his cause.

And until Supt. Reynaldo Wycoco shows the world the documents he says definitely link Lacson to money laundering in the US, we have only have his word for it. Which means more accusations without proof. Who the hell cares if the US is investigating Lacson? The FBI investigates a great many people, but it presumes them innocent until they are proven guilty. More to the point, it does not adopt a policy of accuse now, prove later.

Days ago, I was reveling in the thought that Corpus' revelations about Lacson, like Chavit Singson's own ones about Erap, were a blessing from God, a bolt of grace from the blue. I thought they would help to teach two vital lessons that seem to keep escaping us. One was that elections may not be a refuge of scoundrels. A lesson that we as a nation obviously badly need learning, having just made congressmen of Mark Jimenez and Romeo Jalosjos, a fugitive from justice in the US and a convicted rapist in the Philippines respectively. I thought that if Corpus could pin down Lacson to ill-gotten wealth, then we would have another first in trying and possibly jailing a senator. To paraphrase a famous aphorism about the inexorability of justice, you can run—for public office—but you cannot hide.

I thought moreover that a possible arraignment of Lacson, along with Erap's trial, would show that we were finally determined to do something about corruption in public office. Its impact would be mind-boggling.

Right now, however, the only lessons we may learn from this are, first, that we should never forget that "military intelligence," which is what the Isafp is, tends to be a contradiction in terms. The only thing we can be sure of is that the Isafp sent a team to investigate rumors of Lacson's (and Erap's) fabled wealth in the US. We cannot be sure that they did not go about their business drinking every night in the bars of San Francisco while plying "sources" loose with scotch and *pulutan*. So long as Corpus et al. do not supply corroboration for their charges, so long will that image stick in our minds. And sink deeper by the day.

My only comfort here so far is the thought that "police intelligence" cannot possibly be any less an oxymoron—what an apt word—than its military counterpart.

The only other lesson we may learn from at this point is that Corpus himself may not automatically be believed when he accuses someone of a crime. I now remember that he also accused Jose Ma. Sison of having masterminded the Plaza Miranda bombing, an accusation he has not proven to this day, though it has been bought by several other writers. That accusation is based on the say-so of people who heard it from the lips of an NPA cadre the NPA themselves executed before martial law. Before he died, Ruben Cordero confessed to throwing a grenade at Plaza Miranda at the behest of Sison. It is possible? Maybe yes, maybe no. But it is all speculation without hard evidence. The word of Cordero is not enough when you consider that the literature of "killing fields" is filled with such confessions. People who are about to be executed routinely tell stories to buy time—the more fantastic the story, the more chances they have of living longer.

Time is not on the side of Corpus. Without corroboration, his accusations are not a sword hanging on the head of Lacson, they are a noose hanging around his own neck. The longer he takes, the longer the noose tightens. With time, his name, which means body in English, can only become synonymous with dead weight.

Excuses

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco's disclosure that the US State Department, in a communication to him, has already identified two US bank accounts of Sen. Panfilo Lacson amounting to about $50 million, certainly buttresses the recent stunning allegations of AFP Intelligence Chief Victor Corpus. The Isafp chief has alleged that between deposed President Estrada and Lacson, they have some 18 bank accounts in Hong Kong and the United States amounting to about a billion dollars.

In the mind of many citizens Corpus' allegation about the 18 bank accounts and the nearly $1 billion deposits could be too mind-boggling to be true, but definitely the FBI's assertion about the two bank accounts strengthens Corpus' allegations about the existence of some of them. Lacson promptly termed Wycoco's declaration as "hogwash" and sought to destroy the NBI chief's credibility by calling him names. But this won't suffice. What Lacson has to do is to prepare to answer the charges, for with the US State Department's statement, it may be expected that other US agencies involved in the probe of this controversial issue would soon come in.

* * *

What is needed now is for the Senate to push the probe of Lacson's alleged wealth and his reported links to illegal activities such as drug trafficking. A joint hearing by several Senate committees, as Senate President Frank Drilon intends to have, would give Corpus a chance to put his case across, or shut up, and Lacson to clear his name. If drug-trafficking is involved in the alleged build-up of illegal wealth, all the more does national security dictate that the Senate probe push through.

But until now the Senate has been unable to finish the organization of the committees, including several that will figure in the probe of Lacson, because the minority has been thwarting the majority's efforts to fill them up. First, the minority has protested the grant of committee chairmanships to Senate President Protempore Manny Villar, but their objection is flimsy as other senators who have held that post in the past, including those in the current minority, have chaired committees as well. Then there is the continuing filibuster of Sen. Serge Osmeña, who won as a PPC candidate but jumped into the minority as soon as his rival for the Visayan leadership, Drilon, became a contender for the top post. It's heartbreaking to think that Osmeña is allowing himself to be a tool in obstructing the much-needed probe.

By now it is becoming obvious to many that the minority is putting up all kinds of stumbling blocks in an effort to delay organizing the Senate committees. Why? Is it because they don't want the probe of Lacson?

* * *

Speaker Joe de Venecia has pointed out all along that President Macapagal's goals as defined in her recent State of the Nation Address could be funded from at least three sources. These are the securitization of revenues of the Malampaya natural gas wells in Palawan, estimated at about P30 to P40 billion and expected to start in commercial quantity by next January; the conversion of the 27 percent shares of San Miguel Corp. funded by the coco levy funds, estimated to be worth about P70 billion; and the $650 million of Marcos Swiss deposits now held in escrow in the PNB. At a media gathering in his residence a week ago, De Venecia enthralled them with this plan, which, coming from him, sounded so easy, hence, *medyo nakakabuhay ng patay.*

* * *

Recently, however, former Finance Secretary and now President Macapagal's ambassador to bilateral and multilateral institutions, Edgardo Espiritu, has taken up this point too of funding the President's "doable agenda." Lambasting the political opposition as being "particularly unkind" in calling the President's programs "a precarious, illusory and undoable agenda," he insists that a number of non-budgetary, non-debt fund sourcings amounting to over P80 billion can be undertaken and competed within the next six to 10 months. This, he stressed, will be over and above the amounts that can be generated through the government's regular revenue program in this year's and next year's budget.

Espiritu zeroed in on the securitization of assets and even future revenues of government, such as the Malampaya gas wells, as well as Pagcor's future revenues, estimated at about P20 billion. Securitization, a mode of financing involving the sale of government bonds with such earnings as collateral, he says, could be given impetus by the passage by Congress of a comprehensive Securitization Law. This is the kind of program we'd like our Congress to be preoccupied with, instead of all the unproductive bickerings over committees and the power-tripping.

* * *

Espiritu is also looking at the sale and liquidation of the existing portfolio of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., so that in turn, the proceeds could now provide much-needed liquidity for the home lending activities of the financial system. He also opined that increasing the capitalization of the Home Guaranty Corp. from the current P300 million this year and P500 million next year to, say, P10 billion, would have the potential of generating another P200 billion in housing loans. The same is true with infusing additional capital, say P5 billion, into agriculture-oriented GFIs, particularly the Land Bank and Quedancor—it could generate potentially an additional P50 billion in loans to agriculture in the countryside. Espiritu also throws in the sale of the National Power Corp. power-generation companies, which is estimated to bring in anywhere from $3 billion to $5 billion, and private-sector investments in public infrastructure under the BOT law. Last but not the least, there is the savings, estimated to range from 30 to 40 percent of the annual national budget, that a tough, no-nonsense campaign to curb graft and corruption can bring in.

Espiritu has pointed to the ripple effect of capital infusions in certain government corporations. In my conversations with veteran journalist Nap Rama, publisher of the Manila Bulletin, he likes to point to the ripple effect that energizing the government's housing program, for instance, would create. This is because, notes Nap, there are about 60 other industries allied with building houses.

* * *

Over the months I have been helping the Carmelites of the Gilmore monastery in publicizing their high-powered Diamond Jubilee lecture series this year, featuring distinguished religious and secular speakers; the various topics have reflected the mixed nature of the speakers too. The lectures are held with the cooperation of various universities and colleges in Metro Manila. The good nuns would like to invite the public to the lecture of famous Jesuit theologian Fr. Chito Reyes, who will speak on a topic dedicated to today's college crowd, titled "Youth and Saintliness" on Wednesday, Aug. 15, at 10 a.m. at the Amado Hernandez Hall of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

To see is to believe

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

TODAY I wanted to venture out with the hope of getting rid of a malady—temporary I hope—an impaired vision which I believe can be cured by nothing more sophisticated than a simple proverb we all learned in grade school: to see is to believe.

The weather, however, prevented me from leaving the confines of home. We've been having all this rain on and off for the past week or so, during which we didn't have any water from the faucets for four days because the pumps conked out, or the pipes busted when a tree fell on them; I'm not so clear about the cause.

Had it not been for the deep well in our garden that my mother had the foresight to install decades ago, I could almost swear I heard the ghost of the Ancient Mariner chanting his lamentation over and over, water, water everywhere and not a drop…but back to the eye of the problem, which may be due in part to the intermittent brownouts that are the bane of our daily existence in this benighted province.

You see last Friday there was this TV talk show (that mercifully did not get interrupted by a power outage) where ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari was interviewed on his reaction to his removal that day as chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD).

Replying to the host's question on whether a continued struggle would be an option, considering his apparent disgust at what he said was " the arbitrary manner of the government's act" in relieving him as SPCPD chair, Misuari said "Our people have already lost over 200,000 lives and we have been thrown behind in the development of the region far, far behind, and therefore we have to continue, to be able to catch up with the rest of the country or of the world."

But then the host point-blankly commented, "Some sectors feel you have failed…"

To which Misuari replied, "Well, I think this is the judgment of our detractors, because these people, they have not cared to go down to the South especially to the development areas. If they only care to come down to Sulu, they will come to realize that it was only during my governance that Sulu was able to have almost a miraculous development program."

"Like?"

"The circumferential road is something we can be very proud of…"

. It was at that point when I became convinced that I had a serious problem of impaired vision.

How in the world was it possible for me not to see this miraculous development going on around me?

So, I resolved to be fair and not be among those judgmental detractors, I decided to see for myself, for indeed, to see is to believe. But sadly, nature has a way of thwarting even our best intentions.

Anyway, last I looked, the circumferential road had not gone beyond the "clearing" stage, although about a kilometer had already been concreted according to those who accompanied former President Estrada for an "ocular inspection" of what has been vaunted as the ARMM's flagship project in Sulu.

And last I heard, Misuari was asking Presidential Assistant for Regional Concerns Jesus Dureza to facilitate the release of P500 million to continue the project, and Dureza was suggesting that maybe half that amount would be easier to ask from the budget department, considering that the government was operating on very limited funds.

With the ongoing military operations in the countryside and the difficulty of the terrain however, it would be foolhardy for anyone, not even in the interest of accurate reporting, to attempt to see for oneself the project's present state.

But there are other projects, like the Salam bridges, which are prefabricated Bailey bridges manufactured in Great Britain, two of which we have actually seen. One was in Silangkan, constructed over marshland leading to a small piece of terra firma with an existing neighborhood of a few houses.

There were some in our party who commented that a rock causeway would have been more practical, if not better, but not being engineers, who where they to comment?

Misuari also told Dureza that he would have two more bridges constructed over the fishpen that he was going to dredge on the shore, and from the bridges, picknickers and tourists could cast for the fish of their choice.

Another bridge spans an almost meter-wide stream in Maubuh, giving that white-sand beach the distinction of being probably the only beach in the world that can boast of a Bailey bridge.

Then there is the resort hotel in Tanjung Beach in Indanan, which, when last we saw it, was half-finished and apparently construction had stopped as it stood forlorn and abandoned.

But the most spectacular, judging by the artist's perspective on display at Plaza Tulay, is the proposed central mosque funded by a $2-million donation from a Saudi Arabian foundation.

Again, last we looked, the wrecking ball had not yet completely flattened the historic mosque that dates back to the American period, although it had undergone renovations. Construction is going on though, of a temporary mosque right on Plaza Tulay, and although it will deprive the people the use of this main town square, that is a small price to pay for what could become the country's most magnificent place of worship.

Of course it will leave only an L-shaped narrow street, the only access to the commercial center, for the traffic of about four barangays, but so what?

Some people, like me, just can't appreciate the miraculous even if it blinded them.

Noralyn Mustafa is an INQUIRER correspondent based in Jolo, Sulu. She studied at the University of the Philippines and was coordinator for the Institute of Cultural Studies at the Ateneo de Zamboanga.

Pit bull Senate, or pusillanimous?

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

RECONSTITUTED from the ashes of its self-assassination at the end of Joseph Estrada's trial last January, the Senate has emerged as a permanent Roman arena for the gladiator combats of the nation's biggest politicians. Having seen the political windfall of impeachment as telenovela, the opportunities for advancement in the Senate, as spectacle, are not lost on the senators. Most are consulting experts on wardrobe and makeup and investing in speech writers and public relations strategists as the new political theater season opened with a bang, or a ping, if you will. The pit bulls will be locking jaws in a Senate destined for gridlock and perpetual uproar all the way up to 2004. Yes, 2004.

It is not surprising that the majority leader would be Loren Legarda, who wants to lead in more than just sartorial elegance and gives always a stunning, media-savvy performance. She has hitched her wagon to the rising star of Senate President Franklin Drilon, on whose big shoulders, we will recall, she cried sincere tears of grief with the watching nation after that fateful vote on the second envelope.

But to survive, Legarda's star must shine in a firmament studded with new brilliance. Supernova Noli de Castro's runaway leadership in the recent 2001 electoral horse race outshone her own come-from-behind 1998 capture of the No. 1 spot. Kabayan speaks with the baritone of a clear democratic mandate by election. The ABS-CBN bench at the Senate got much deeper with his entrance.

The current majority is razor-thin. Some of its members, like John Osmeña, a consummate *balimbing* and political cross-dresser, were Erap supporters during the trial and the seeds of a future realignment. Never mind. John's cousin Serge can easily cross over the permeable barrier from the opposition. For now it suits the latter to wear the old venerable costume of the parliamentary *filibustero*, and to give a clinic on its tender procedural mercies for some of the *arrivistes*

New arrivals like Kiko Pangilinan, the husband of Sharon Cuneta, and Ralph Recto, the husband of Vilma Santos, have also created a crowd in the youthful looks category, not entirely unwelcome as the likes of Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile exeunt, stage left. (These young Turks will each have to do a lot on their own to crawl out from under the stellar superlatives normally attached to their spouse's names.)

All the new senators should pay attention to Serge, who is just demonstrating the venerable tradition of opposition, even obstructionism, based on personal privilege as a senator. The concept of privilege is at the heart of what it means to be a senator. It is, I believe, the fundamental concept to be understood about the Senate because from its masterful use, and ill, flows the Senate's power and authority, and recent tragedy.

Reduced to its essence, the vote not to open that second envelope was an exercise in the personal privilege of each of the 11 who voted against it. But it was an act of suicide for the Senate as institution, which Sen. Aquilino Pimentel promptly declared to be tainted. Then, by walking out on the trial, the House prosecutors placed the Senate in a state of suspended animation, as if the camera of history were in freeze frame at the nadir, or lowest point, of the Senate's history, at the point when Justice Hilario Davide intoned that "the Nays have it!" and Legarda burst into tears, huddling with Pimentel; when Tessie Aquino-Oreta danced her lithe jig and Kit Tatad smirked and skulked away. When Enrile dared the people to revolt over the vote and they did.

Fast forward. An Edsa Dos, Tres and elections later, who should appear in the Senate but some of the very protagonists of that recent struggle over Erap. Not only his wife, Senator Loi, but his sheriff, Ping Lacson are senators, put there by the people themselves in their infinite wisdom, along with Ed Angara, Erap's agriculture secretary and chronographer of that presidency's twilight moments. Together with reelectionist Gringo Honasan they form the core of the opposition, loyal and otherwise.

Meanwhile the prosecution may have indeed returned in the persons of Joker Arroyo and Manny Villar, who played such pivotal roles in the impeachment. The former House Speaker will wear Blas Ople's title of Senate president protempore. And if Serge Osmeña's recent nomination of him results in election to head the blue ribbon committee, Joker may have the opportunity to redeem the promise of the People Power Coalition to rid the country of corruption in government, both national and local. It was Joker whose television ads during the election campaign, most loudly promised, "*Uubusin ang mga* corrupt!"

In the light of the troubles surrounding First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, perhaps Joker felt Serge was offering him a hot potato. Joker's mettle may be tested to its limit. It will be interesting to see if those who successfully brought down the Erap administration on the basis of a moral crusade against corruption, can follow through with their own election campaign promises—whether the robes of incumbency wear as well as the pennants of opposition. Getting rid of Erap was only half the battle. We still have to figure out all those thorny problems of policy regarding poverty, employment, global competitiveness and a whole menu of national issues.

The independence of the Philippine Senate is a corner stone of our government and its system of checks and balances. By nature and tradition, most Senates tend to be in opposition to the presidency. But those that have a constructive partnership with an incumbent administration have tremendous potential to crystallize and implement reforms. The ideal lies somewhere between being a completely obstructionist Senate full of pit bulls opposing the administration, and being a pusillanimous, rubber stamp captive of Malacañang, Our self-slain Senate cannot resurrect itself as an institution unless its current members can strike this delicate balance.

Reporting tragedies

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

MORE than a month has passed since Filipino-Australian Ted Gonzales, his wife and daughter, were brutally killed in Sydney, Australia. According to the latest reports, the Australian police are set to announce soon the identities of the suspected assailants.

A reader, who struck me as a close friend of the victims, let the intervening period pass before he sat down to write the letter he sent me. He waited for his emotions to settle down before putting in writing his outrage over the manner media covered the crime.

He prefaced his letter with an account of how a TV personality made a live broadcast from Sydney in front of the Gonzales residence. The reader heard the broadcaster say "unnamed Sydney Filipinos had referred to the victim as, '*mataas sumingil*,' or words to that effect."

The rest of the letter reads: "Immediately after the report, the camera turned to the anchorman at the desk in the network studio in Manila. I heard him say, apparently in response to that last bit of information, '*Ano bang uri ng tao itong si* Gonzales?" or words to that effect.

"When an unsubstantiated observation on the character of the victim is bared on national TV, without qualification or context, the specter of an old cliché is shrouded on the victim. 'There must be something wrong with him; because nothing bad usually happens unless something is wrong.'

"If I may, there are three unacceptable and cruel consequences in airing those remarks on nationwide broadcast. One is to imply that the victims had it coming to them. Another is that this was a valid reason to commit murder. A third is to impose a burden on the loved ones of the victims (at the worst time of their lives) to prove that their brother or their son was a good man."

The reader conceded that reporters and journalists feel compelled to report everything they are told and everything they observe. But, he asked, "can we not discount isolated remarks or opinions that seem out of the norm and not balanced? Can we not report only on views that are duly attributed and identified? Or if isolated opinions are reported, can they not be qualified and placed in context?"

Objective reporting

Out of curiosity, I checked the back issues of the INQUIRER to see if it reported or made any reference in its stories on the alleged price-gouging activities of Gonzales that, if we follow the logic of the TV broadcast, may have led to his untimely death.

There was none. On the five separate days that the newspaper carried the news about the crime, nothing was written about the fees he charged the people who sought his professional services. The reports were objective or clinical. Only information gathered from authoritative and reliable sources were used to form the basis of the news.

The editor in chief has informed me that the newspaper has strict rules in reporting tragedies. The newspaper's Manual of Editorial Policies has a section devoted exclusively to the treatment of man-made tragedies, in particular, death, suicide and various forms of human cruelty.

If the readers are observant, news about deaths and suicides in the INQUIRER are often short or concise. There is hardly the kind of emotional drama that usually characterizes reports of similar events in tabloids or nightly TV news broadcasts.

Unless public officials or known personalities are involved, incidents of suicides and other forms of violent death occupy the last rung in the news hierarchy. With the high cost of newsprint, whatever available spaces there may be are better used for advertisement or more newsworthy stories.

If the editor thinks a killing, suicide or human tragedy should be reported, he has to observe certain ground rules in making the report. The overriding principle that must be followed may be summed up in the following words: Put yourself in the position of the bereaved relatives and friends of the victim. How will you feel if the incident is made known to the public in the manner it was reported?

News about suicides or attempts to take one's life is handled with extra care. To discourage copycat suicides, reporters are under strict instructions to avoid or minimize reporting specific details of the method the victim used in taking his or her life.

The news should not have the look of a "how-to-commit-suicide-with-the-least-effort" story. A depressed or drug-crazed reader might find inspiration from the article and take the easy way out to end his troubles.

Lest the wrong sense of glamour or popularity gets into the head of the potential suicide victim, gory photos of the failed or successful suicide attempt are not allowed to grace the pages.

Also, some words are taboo in the preparation of news about suicides, such as, "his suicide is unexplainable," "he had everything going for him," "they wanted to be together for all eternity" and "the girl committed suicide because she was scolded by her mother."

The rationale behind this rule is simple. Suicide is a complicated emotional event. It goes deeper than what can be seen from the outside. How or why it happened cannot be summed up in two or three words that often give the impression that the victim is emotionally immature or lacked the support system that would have prevented the tragedy.

In short, suicide news should be presented in the most clinical way possible. The act should not be romanticized. It should not appear to be something exciting or worthy of imitation. The suicidal person should not be pictured as an admirable personality who had the guts to take his life.

Although the rules I enumerated above are clearly spelled out in the newspaper's Manual of Editorial Policies, there is no gainsaying that some slip-ups may happen in reporting human tragedy. If the reader spots any such violation, this column will only be too glad to hear about it so the appropriate action can be taken to prevent a repeat of the error.

To the reader who complained about the coverage of the investigation of the Gonzales murder, it will help your cause if you send your letter to the TV network concerned so it can take a close look at its own rules on the reporting of human tragedies.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Votes and law

"If one violates the law, millions of votes should not be a basis of exoneration."

—Bayan Muna legal counsel Neri Colmenares on Richard Gomez's claim his party MAD should not be disqualified since it garnered 1.4 million votes

Nature's power

"The god of law cannot prevail over the god of nature."

—Supreme Court Justice Reynato Puno urging trial court judges to pay more attention to environmental cases

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Health care is too expensive

A MONTH since President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's first State of the Nation Address, the Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD), an alliance of health organizations, professionals, students and hospital workers, raises its alert call—expensive health care services kill. It calls the attention of President Macapagal to increase the national health budget to make health services affordable and accessible to all Filipinos.

Today, 8 out of 10 Filipinos cannot afford the health care they need. Medical treatment is simply out of reach to the majority of Filipinos despite new technologies and medical breakthroughs. Most cannot even afford adequate food, shelter and clothing for their families.

Health services at government hospitals are now practically for sale! Government hospitals have implemented the fee-for-service scheme and have increased hospital fees by a minimum of 20 percent. The average hospital bill is three times the average monthly wage of an ordinary Filipino. Even the price of medicines in the Philippines is 18 times more than in India and Canada where citizens have higher income than Filipinos.

With massive impoverishment and no economic relief in sight, the moral imperative to stop the commercialization of health services and the corporatization of public hospitals is urgent! The Macapagal administration's concern for the *masa* and the entire Filipino people should be manifested by allocating 5 percent of its gross national product for the national health budget. This could make health services affordable and accessible to all Filipinos.—**JOSEPH CARABEO, M.D., secretary general, Health Alliance for Democracy, 233 Mayon cor. N. Roxas Streets, QC**

Help needed for old retirees

THE GOVERNMENT, in partnership with non-government organizations, should give priority to providing welfare programs for the thousands of retirees who now live in penury due to their very low monthly pensions. Although these retirees are all registered voters, politicians tend to take them for granted as they are all over the country. Also, being in their twilight years, they seem to be abandoned by the very society that they helped build and run as virtual sparkplugs.

And worse, some take advantage of their old age by enticing them to join associations for a fee, with the promise to work for their welfare. This certainly worsens their economic lot and leaves them chronically depressed because no financial help reaches them.

Hence, altruistic Filipinos should form a non-governmental organization that can effectively partner with government to bail out the poor retirees. I am sure many magnanimous Filipinos can volunteer to help the retirees live life to the fullest up to their last breath.—**T. B. ABAYAN, 13-A Banning St., North Fairview, Quezon City**

Legarda's job cut out for her

I'M interested to see how the first woman to occupy the post of majority floor leader of the Senate will cope with her squabbling male peers. I am sure Sen. Loren Legarda wasn't voted into the position for the sake of political correctness: to have a woman occupying a traditionally male post. Neither could it be because the majority party thought a camera-friendly face would make their legislative agenda more palatable to the masses. Legarda's merits outshine many an incumbent senator's, including those who were elected with her in 1998.

In her acceptance speech, Legarda quoted former President Cory Aquino as saying: "There is much that a woman can bring into politics that would make our world a kinder, gentler place for humanity to thrive in." Indeed, a woman's cool temperament, her sense of diplomacy and her intuition will be an effective check on the combative tendencies of most legislators. And Legarda's participation in the Senate impeachment trial demonstrated that she has more than enough of these qualities.

The greatest challenge to Legarda, though, will be how to motivate the bitterly divided Senate to put aside partisanship and work with the majority in crafting legislation that will advance the national interest, not personal or party concerns. This task calls for more than the management abilities innate in many a talented female. Success in this aspect of leadership is what separates the statesman from the politico.

Loren the statesman is what we want to see.—**ANALIZA M. ENRIQUEZ, 2884 Finlandia St., San Isidro, Makati City**

A year's truce makes sense

INSTEAD of analyzing point by point the State of the Nation Address of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, it looks like some of our leaders have focused their political tirades on trivialities. Supposed political stalwarts who have become myopic in their pronouncements, cannot even distinguish what hyperbole, irony, simile, metaphor and/or metonomy are from the political gobbledygook they spew.

For once, can we put asunder pious and pompous, holier-than-thou pontifications and start buckling down to work our way to economic recovery? The President's Sona was not all promises. We have our share of responsibilities. The Sona was not all *bangkang papel* or a study on hydrodynamics.

I am not a great fan of President Macapagal but her clarion call for a year's truce from carping criticism makes sense. Quibbling on metaphors and political sourgraping are vexations to the spirit and a waste of energy. Let us be reminded of Jesus' statement: "The night cometh, when no man can work." (John 10:9) Let us work our way together in unity while there is still time instead of engaging in too much political bickering. Time is of the essence.—**SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila**

Hell, the devil and Lacson

YOUR editorial on "Mr. Clean" reminded me of another election campaign gimmick of Sen. Panfilo Lacson. One day during the campaign period, a streamer was put up over the bridge near the cathedral in our city. It read: "We believe in God, the Bible and Ping Lacson."

I couldn't believe my eyes when I read it. I was shocked by such a blasphemous statement.

There was a time when Ferdinand Marcos, whom Lacson considers the greatest president our country ever had, was similarly projected by a religious sect.

I suggest that the Senate conduct a speedy inquiry into the alleged crimes Lacson has committed, and I propose the slogan: "We believe in the Devil, Hell and Ping Lacson." Thus, he may follow his idol Marcos to get a seat in the place where he belongs. If proven guilty, he is willing to go to hell, anyway.—**ARNOLD VAN VUGT, PN Roa Subd., Cagayan de Oro City**

Family's gratitude for mayor's help

WE would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mayor Joey Marquez for his unrelenting support to the family of Claudine Mabel Feliciano in their search for justice for her death. The exceptional attention, performance and dedication that he and his office have extended to our case, brought back our confidence in our government and its officials. All of us watched in admiration the rapid capture of the two suspects, Ernesto Berry and Nieves Constancio. This also gave our family strength and continued optimism that justice can be realized and will be served in our country, with the help of our government.—**ROLLIE, LITA, CHERYL FELICIANO, BIMBO AND INNA FELICIANO-GIMENEZ AND THE REST OF THE FELICIANO FAMILY, 227 Ferrari Drive, Camella Homes, Sucat, Parañaque City**

LETTERS

A Pimentel admirer no more

I USED to admire Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and I voted for him in the post-Edsa senatorial elections and in 1992 when he ran for the vice presidency in tandem with Sen. Jovito Salonga. His political career was anchored on principled politics and courageous conviction as when he was a fighting Concon delegate in 1971, a Laban candidate in 1978 under Ninoy Aquino's ticket and as mayor of Cagayan de Oro during the early '80s . Now, I find him to be a pathetic political figure. His decision to align himself with the "Erap gang" in the Senate after he lost the fight for the Senate presidency is not the mark of a good statesman and principled political leader. His anti-administration tirade and obstructionist posturings as a so-called oppositionist and minority leader are a complete turn off. People know that he is just being "*pikon*" for losing the Senate presidency. As we say in the vernacular, "*ang pikon, talo.*"

Pimentel needs a lot of soul-searching and a complete rethinking of his role in the political arena. Otherwise, when his term expires in 2004, he may find himself a disgraced and forgettable politician in the mold of a Ernie Maceda, Kit Tatad, Nikki Coseteng and others who retired from politics much maligned by our people. By the way, I also voted for Sen. Serge Osmeña because he ran under the People Power Coalition ticket but I find it rather unfair to the electorate that he is now sleeping with the political enemy, so to speak. How could he stomach being lumped together with Senators Tito Sotto, Ping Lacson, Loi Ejercito, Tessie Oreta, Blas Ople and Gringo Honasan? Philippine politics is truly one big circus!—**FERDIE T. SIBAL, 18 Green Leaves St., Capitol Green Village, Tandang Sora, Quezon City**

Say it's not so

AS far as I can remember, I have voted for Aquilino Pimentel every time he dipped his hat into the national political arena. I have always respected him and in times of heated debates among friends, have always defended him passionately. Lately, however, he has been a big disappointment and this has led me to ask myself whether I have done the right thing all these years. He has proven that he is a sore loser by aligning himself with proven "*inutils*" in the Senate such as Tito Sotto, Blas Ople and Gringo Honasan just because he was left out in the Senate presidency race. Well, I've got news for Pimentel: he doesn't need to be Senate president to help his country through reforms passed in the Senate. He doesn't have to be Senate president to help his fellow Filipinos get out of the quagmire of poverty. All he needs is sincerity, righteousness and resolve that he seemed to have a lot of in the past.

Senator Pimentel, say that you haven't sunk so low that you simply echo whatever the opposition is saying without investigating things. Say that you have not forgotten the values that men like Jose Rizal, Ninoy Aquino and Lorenzo Tañada have fought for. Say that you will not oppose the things that the government is proposing for the good of the country simply because you held the microphone when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath at Edsa and wasn't even considered or allowed to retain the Senate presidency. And finally, say that you haven't become so callous that you refuse to give your much needed help or inputs even after sensing a twinge of sincerity in the person of President Macapagal. Senator Pimentel, say it isn't so.—**JUAN ROBERTO CORRALES, West Avenue, Quezon City**

Northern Ireland's peace process sees finishing line

NEWS ANALYSIS

Shawn Pogatchnik

BELFAST, Northern Ireland—Another moment of truth has melted away, another supposedly make-or-break deadline missed.

For eight unlikely years a crisis-prone peace process has kept swimming against the tide of Northern Ireland's embittered history. Each passing storm threatens to drown the stubborn creature, yet it bobs back to the surface each time, that wee bit nearer an elusive shore called lasting peace.

Politicians in Northern Ireland's Catholic-Protestant government should have been clearing their desks Saturday, having talked themselves out of a job. Instead, thanks to Britain's exploitation of a legal loophole, they packed their bags for long-postponed vacations, resting up for the next "last chance" to sustain the Good Friday peace pact they struck three years ago.

Britain's one-day suspension of powers meant all sides gained another six weeks to resolve key issues that have brought their power-sharing deal to the brink. No question is bigger than the one unanswered since peacemaking efforts began in 1993: When, if ever, will the Irish Republican Army give up weapons?

While only the IRA can decide to start to disarm, all sides think the next round of talks could be a historic deal-clincher.

If it happens, much credit will go to the two great survivors of the peace process: Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams, who has been central to delivering peace, and the Ulster Unionist Party's David Trimble, without whom there would never have been a process.

Time and time again, Trimble has proved uniquely adept at keeping a slim majority of Protestants on board a process that offers the province's conservative, cautious pro-British community more pains than gains. His resignation six weeks ago as the power-sharing government's leader, and refusal to return unless the IRA begins scrapping weapons, could represent his dying political act—or greatest tactical triumph.

Adams has led his IRA-linked party down a path that offered many practical benefits for his Catholic supporters, but at the cost of sacrificing hallowed beliefs and splitting the IRA. Under his opportunistic leadership, Sinn Fein has gained more from the silence of most IRA weapons than they ever did from 27 years of unified bombing and assassination.

Whether Adams can get, or even wants, the IRA to start giving up guns now—a move long branded "surrender" in IRA circles, rather than a symbolic renunciation of violence sought by others—is the great unknown. But all the other pieces of the jigsaw are being laid out on the table.

They include the issues that Catholics most demand and Protestants resent: the withdrawal of as many British troops and closure of as many bases as possible, and the root-and-branch reform of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, whose mostly Protestant members the IRA spent 27 years slaying and maiming.

Getting the balance right in police reform is the linchpin for any wider deal. It strikes at the heart of each side's conflicting perception of right and wrong.

Catholic politicians have already seen Britain's still-confidential 175-point plan for changing the RUC into a new Police Service they can accept. The paper is supposed to be made public soon.

While Catholics say it still doesn't go far enough, Protestants say it goes too far. The change in prospect is particularly hurtful to the middle-class Protestants who sent their sons and daughters into police duty and who form Trimble's wavering support base.

Before resuming a ceasefire in 1997, the IRA's last victims were two officers in their 30s, John Graham and David Johnston, out on foot patrol amid the shops of Lurgan, Trimble's home town. The IRA shot both of them point-blank through the back of the head. Though Britain and Ireland vowed to isolate Sinn Fein in the wake of those murders, both governments instead courted Sinn Fein, which gained speedy entry to wider negotiations that produced the Good Friday pact.

"This so-called peace process has felt so one-sided," said Pearl Graham, holding a portrait of her slain son, his wife and three young children. "My boy was a good officer. The RUC is a good police force. They gave their lives and limbs for law-abiding society, yet the terrorists are in the government now."

Three decades of conflict over Northern Ireland have left few families untouched in this land of 1.7 million—55 percent Protestant, 40 percent Catholic. For every Pearl Graham, there are Catholic mothers with their own lost loved ones, the victims of outlawed anti-Catholic groups and British security forces as well as the IRA.

For IRA supporters, the peace process has brought a series of bitter pills, sweetened only in part by the unrelenting rise of Sinn Fein as a political force under Adams.

Two decades ago, IRA men were starving themselves to death in prison as part of their refusal to accept British sovereignty. Today the Good Friday pact has enshrined Northern Ireland's place within the United Kingdom, a fact underscored by Britain's ability to transfer power to local hands, then take it back when power-sharing turns sour.

"Gerry's been a masterful salesman," said Tommy Gorman, a disillusioned former IRA member. "He's got us demanding all the things we used to say we never wanted: Jobs as peelers (police) and a place in government in Northern Ireland—a sectarian statelet that republicans aren't supposed to recognize, let alone try to reform. We've gone from being revolutionaries to helping the Brits govern this place."

Britain since 1998 has cut its garrison in Northern Ireland by a third to 13,500 and shut a few dozen bases. Much of the meandering border with the Irish Republic has long been free of the road barriers and military checkpoints that once scarred the landscape.

The crucial exception is South Armagh, a stretch of border dubbed "bandit country" where support for both the mainstream IRA and a dissident band nicknamed the Real IRA both run high. Here Britain maintains a network of spy posts, able to monitor traffic and eavesdrop on conversations for miles (kilometers) around.

Moving ahead with dismantling South Armagh army installations would increase the risk of car bombs elsewhere, but tilt the forces within IRA circles toward an act of disarmament. *AP*

Why the C-130s are necessary now

FOR THE PAST few days, the Philippine Air Force has been placed in a bad light due to a series of news articles accusing the command of "anomalous transactions" in the C-130 purchase.

To set the record straight, allow us to highlight the following points:

1. The Philippine Air Force needs these aircraft to accomplish our mandated task—both for military and non-military roles. These aircraft can be used for airlifting personnel and cargo and can be reconfigured for surveillance capability. The source for the aircraft is not important as long as we can get the aircraft and put them into service at the soonest possible time. Soldiers are dying in the field because of lack of air assets, bandits roam our waters and territory freely because we don't have surveillance for them and at times we need to evacuate overseas Filipino workers from foreign countries. The more we delay the acquisition of our C-130s, the more lives we lose in combat, in calamity and in disaster situations.

2. We consider Lockheed and its authorized representatives as our primary source simply because they are the owners and manufacturers of these aircraft and they have these models of C-130 available. Other offers, if any, can offer probably only a C-130B. As such, Lockheed retains a certain degree of proprietary rights, especially when you modify any of its existing systems. If any entity or group can present a better offer than that of Lockheed, we are more than happy to recommend approval of such offer. A public bidding is not necessary in this case because we are dealing with the manufacturer; thus, the project was approved through a negotiated bid.

3. These aircraft are not new; that is why we are getting them for a bargain. A brand new C-130 is so many times more expensive. It costs $70 million as compared to the $3 million each being offered. However, a used aircraft can be relied on provided the service bulletins are complied, regular maintenance is done properly and the aircraft is operated in accordance with standard practice.

4. While the purchase of the C-130 has been approved by Former President Joseph Estrada, it is definitely not a perfected or effective contract yet, as it requires, among other things, the approval of the President of the Republic and the appropriation of funds. The signatures of the defense secretary who was the chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines then and the commanding general of the Air Force are recommendatory in nature. This has been the practice of the AFP through the years. The contract is only effective when it has been approved by the President and the requirements are met. This is very explicit in the memorandum of agreements. As of today, the proposal is under study by the National Economic Development Authority.

5. The SND and the commanding general of the Philippine Air Force have answered these allegations in so many fora; and yet there is no let-up in news items which tend to impute anomalous transactions. Most of these are pure criticisms without any alternatives offered. Again the AFP, the troops in the field, the victims of calamities need these aircraft now, not later. We welcome any hearing to be conducted so that we can put this matter to rest and move forward.

6. These unsubstantiated charges cause undue demoralization of troops fighting in the field. Our soldiers need these equipment badly. We ask the leadership to give us the means and the capability to do a better job.—**JOSE ANGEL A. HONRADO, colonel, GSC and acting chief, Public Information Office, Headquarters Philippine Air Force, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City**

German president urges global human cloning ban

BERLIN—German President Johannes Rau called on Saturday for a global ban on human cloning, saying helping human beings that already exist was more important than creating new ones.

"Human cloning must be proscribed at an international level," Rau said in an interview with the Sunday edition of the newspaper Die Welt, made available in advance.

"The question is not that of a new human being," the head of state stressed: "The question we have to ask ourselves is: how can we help existing human beings?"

More effort had to be concentrated on research into serious illnesses such as diabetes, cancer, and heart disease, using all scientific means available.

"The debate on cloning doesn't provide any answers to these questions," Rau noted.

The debate on using stem cells extracted from embryos for research has deeply divided Germany's political classes, including its main ruling party, the left-of-center Social Democrats.

German law prevents artificial procreation from stem cells but cell imports are not prohibited. In a debate last month Parliament decided not to ban imports.

Last Wednesday Germany and France urged UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to negotiate a universal ban on human cloning, urging that the proposed ban be discussed at the UN General Assembly session in New York next month.

French Health Minister Bernard Kouchner called on Thursday for sanctions to be imposed on countries that allow human cloning under the universal ban proposed by France and Germany.

"We must forge ahead in drawing up an international convention that would ban human cloning and that would include economic sanctions against countries that flout the ban," the minister said in an interview with Le Monde newspaper.

He said an international court, such as the International Criminal Tribunal, could be asked to intervene since cloning would represent "an attack on human dignity."

The joint bid to ban cloning came after Italian embryologist Severino Antinori told an international medical conference in Washington Tuesday that he would soon pioneer efforts to clone humans.

Often referred to as the Doctor Strangelove of the world of reproduction, Antinori said he hoped to begin the research within weeks and that his technology would be used to assist sterile couples. *AFP*

Taliban won't execute 8 foreign aid workers

KABUL—Eight foreign aid workers detained in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan for allegedly preaching Christianity have escaped the death penalty and will be expelled, the Islamic militia's newspaper said Sunday.

The Taliban's Daily Shariat paper said Sharia or Islamic law would apply to the 16 Afghan aid workers arrested with the foreigners last week, meaning they could still be facing death.

But it said the foreigners—two Americans, two Australians and four Germans—would be punished under Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar's decree 14, which allows up to 10 days in prison and expulsion within 48 hours of release.

The first foreigners were arrested on Aug. 3, meaning they could be released from detention as early as Monday and expelled soon after. Others were rounded up on Aug. 5. *AFP*

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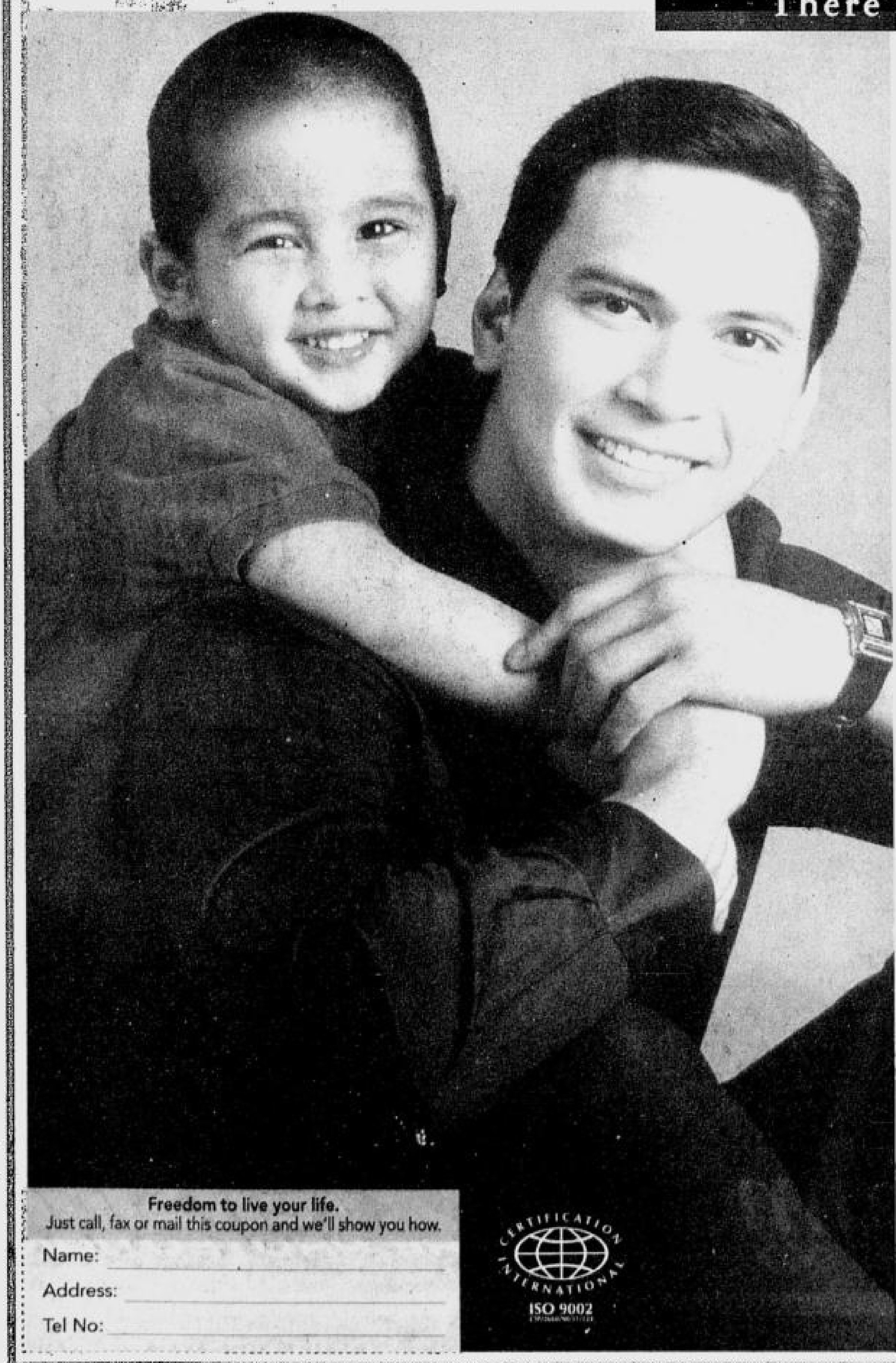

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MASKED Palestinian boys wave Hamas flags during the funeral of two Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip Aug. 11. REUTERS

Defiant Israel says it will control PLO office 'for good'

JERUSALEM—Israel will control Orient House, the unofficial Palestinian headquarters in Jerusalem "for good," Israel's Internal Security Minister Uzi Landau said on Sunday.

"Sovereignty and Israeli law will be applied for good to Orient House, which has been occupied to prevent terrorist activities by the Palestinian Authority in the heart of Jerusalem and this type of activity will not resume," the minister said on military radio.

"If one day we have to leave this building, which is private property, the activities which will be carried on there will be entirely within the framework of Israeli law," he added.

Meanwhile Jerusalem police chief, Commissioner Micky Levy, said on public radio that the police did not anticipate any sort of uprising or serious public disturbances in Jerusalem.

"The Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem do not want disturbances, because they know that would damage their economic situation and personal interests," he said.

He also indicated that police were considering "limiting the movements in Jerusalem" of the Arab League's spokesperson Hanan Ashrawi.

"She deliberately engages in provocations to appear in front of the cameras," he said.

On Saturday, Ashrawi, accompanied by an entourage of some 10 people, was also forcefully pushed back by Israeli police after trying to approach the building.

Ashrawi earlier told a press conference that Israel's actions in taking over Orient House could expand the conflict throughout the region.

"I cannot overestimate the danger inherent in the latest Israeli moves... its policies are liable to launch the whole region into a new cycle of conflict and violence," she said.

Israeli troops occupied Orient House on Friday as well as a dozen other Palestinian offices in east Jerusalem.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government justified the move, which has attracted international condemnation, as a response to a Palestinian suicide bombing the previous day that killed 15 people and the bomber and injured more than 80.

In reaction to Israel's occupation of Orient House, the symbolic cornerstone of Palestinian political presence in east Jerusalem, a coalition of Palestinian movements, which includes Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah, called for a general strike Monday in the Palestinian territories and the entire Arab Muslim world.

Also on Sunday, diplomatic efforts gathered pace in an international drive to pressure Israel and the Palestinians to prevent violence spinning out of control.

Palestinian and Israeli diplomatic sources said the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, David Satterfield, would visit the region on Sunday for talks with leaders from both sides.

Arafat himself had urged US and European leaders to push Israel to vacate Orient House.

After months of bloodshed in which more than 670 people have died, the conflict threatened to widen as the head of the Lebanese Hezbollah group called on its "holy warriors" to be prepared to take part in the Palestinian uprising. *AFP and Reuters*

'Mother of all auctions' gets to second day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—The auctioneer's hammer crashed down for the second day Sunday in an effort to sell about 10,000 items belonging to the extravagant brother of Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah.

Some 1,050 items owned by Prince Jefri have been put up on the block since Saturday and most have been sold, British auctioneers Smith and Hodgkinson said Sunday.

"It's going very well and we're seeing some good prices," auction manager Mark Isaacs said.

There were about 500 bidders in the bidding room with another 500 on the sidelines, he said.

Items coming under the hammer in the second day of the auction include fittings such as bathroom accessories, gym equipment and furniture.

The first day's sales went beyond expectations and more of the same was expected Sunday, the auctioneer said.

"All the items were sold beyond the expected prices and we were very satisfied with the first day's sale which was testing the waters," said Andrew Duckworth, a senior partner.

"Everything must go," he said.

The first day of the six-day sale drew $500,000 Brunei (US$277,777) for 645 out of the 900 items on the block.

A dry cleaning unit snapped up for $35,000 by a local was the most expensive sale of the day.

More than 1,000 foreigners and locals, including collectors and the curious, had paid $1,000 just to get into a heavily guarded former plastercast factory converted into a warehouse to bid for a share of the royal possessions.

Unofficial sources here say that they expect sales to reach 30 million Brunei dollars, but independent valuators said $10-15 million Brunei would be considered a success.

The 10,000 items in the catalogue come from former finance minister Prince Jefri's flagship company Amedeo Development Corp. after it collapsed under a mountain of debt three years ago.

Smith and Hodgkinson took six weeks to compile the list of items believed to be worth several million dollars.

The items include furnishings meant for a chain of luxury hotels and palaces, two unused Mercedes Benz fire engines, 16,000 tons of Italian marble and granite and royal jewelry and several hundred Louis XIV gilt chairs. *AFP*

Zeppelin ship airborne again after 60 years

FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, Germany—More than 60 years after the disaster that sounded its death-knell, the zeppelin, the legendary German airship, is taking to the air again.

Rising phoenix-like from the ashes, a new example of the dirigibles named after their inventor, the German general and aviator, Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, is due to take passengers for a trip over Lake Constance in southern Germany on Aug. 15.

The resurrection has created great public interest. The operating company, Deutsche Zeppelin Reederei (DZR), says that practically no more places are available on board before the end of October.

Many Americans, Austrians and Swiss as well as Germans are among those who have secured a seat. And these include several elderly people who traveled in the original vessel and have retained a nostalgia for it, said Kristina Betz, who is in charge of reservations.

The last zeppelin passenger flight was on May 7, 1937. After a 72-hour crossing of the Atlantic, the hydrogen-filled Hindenburg was preparing to land at Lakehurst, New Jersey, when it caught fire and burned.

Out of some 100 passengers, 36 died in the inferno. Shock photographs of the mastodon of canvas and steel, the pride of Nazi Germany, ablaze in the sky, made world headlines.

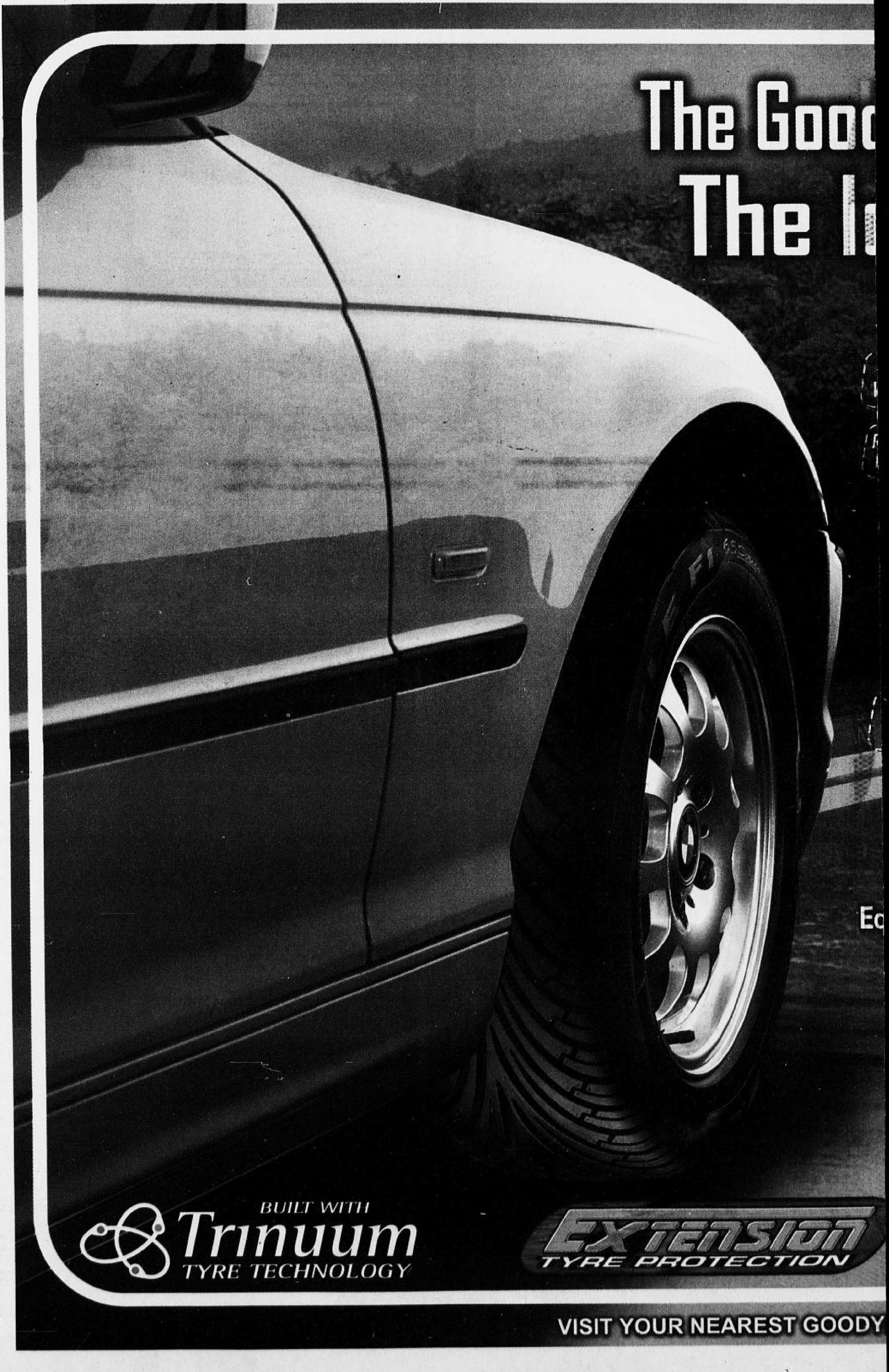
The efforts of the DZR company to re-launch the zeppelins remain modest for the meanwhile.

The ride being offered over Lake Constance—for a price of 600 marks (300 euros, $270)—lasts just an hour, a far cry from the prestigious pre-war flights to New York or Rio de Janeiro.

Moreover this "new technology" zeppelin is much smaller than its ancestor: 75 meters long compared with 245 meters for the Hindenburg. There is only a single cabin for 12 passengers, whereas the Hindenburg had a large saloon, sleeping cabins and a smoking room.

Based at the lakeshore town of Friedrichshafen, which saw the birth of the zeppelin at the turn of the 20th century, DZR nevertheless plans from next year to offer flights from other German or European towns, said company spokesperson Oliver Schuetz.

The company also plans to build bigger airships carrying up to 30 people. "But there will be no going back to zeppelins like the Hindenburg," Schuetz said. *AFP*



Thailand named hub for global trafficking in women, children

By Daniel Lovering

BANGKOK—For 16-year-old Kampaeng, it was a chance to escape her family's rice farm in Laos and see the bright lights of Bangkok, a place her friends described as a sort of never-ending carnival.

There was also the promise of money, far more than she could ever earn working the dusty fields on the outskirts of Vientiane, the Lao capital where she lived with her family.

"Some of my friends said if I came to Bangkok to work it would be a lot of fun, and I listened," she said staring vacantly at the floor.

But there was no fun awaiting Kampaeng in the Thai capital when she arrived early last year after a clandestine journey through darkness across the Mekong River and along bumpy roads in the back of a pick-up truck.

Having been spirited into Thailand by a succession of "brokers," she was put to work as a maid for a shop-keeping family, only to be denied her pay, beaten and repeatedly raped over seven months before police rescued her.

"If I did not clean well, she slapped my face," Kampaeng said, referring to her employer. "She checked my work. She would also use her shoes to hit me. After one month, her husband raped me.

"I was never paid. I was afraid to ask for money."

Kampaeng, who asked that her real name not be used, is one of an untold number of young girls shuttled into Thailand from neighboring countries—lured by brokers offering jobs or driven by their own economic desperation.

Many have similar stories of unkept promises from traffickers who tricked them into an industry that ranks as one of the fastest growing areas of international crime, generating billions of dollars in profits annually.

Thailand is not only a destination for girls trafficked from poorer Indochinese countries, but it has also become a major international transit point leading to Europe, the Middle East, North America and elsewhere in Asia.

The US State Department estimates that some 225,000 people, mostly women and children, are trafficked out of Southeast Asia each year, making the region the biggest source point for the illicit trade.

The number of people brought into Thailand from poor neighboring countries—in an exodus that feeds the international demand for prostitutes, laborers and domestic workers—is unknown.

"Most victims of trafficking (in Thailand) come from Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar (Burma)," said Ranthip Sirorat, director of Thailand's National Secretariat on Trafficking in Women and Children.

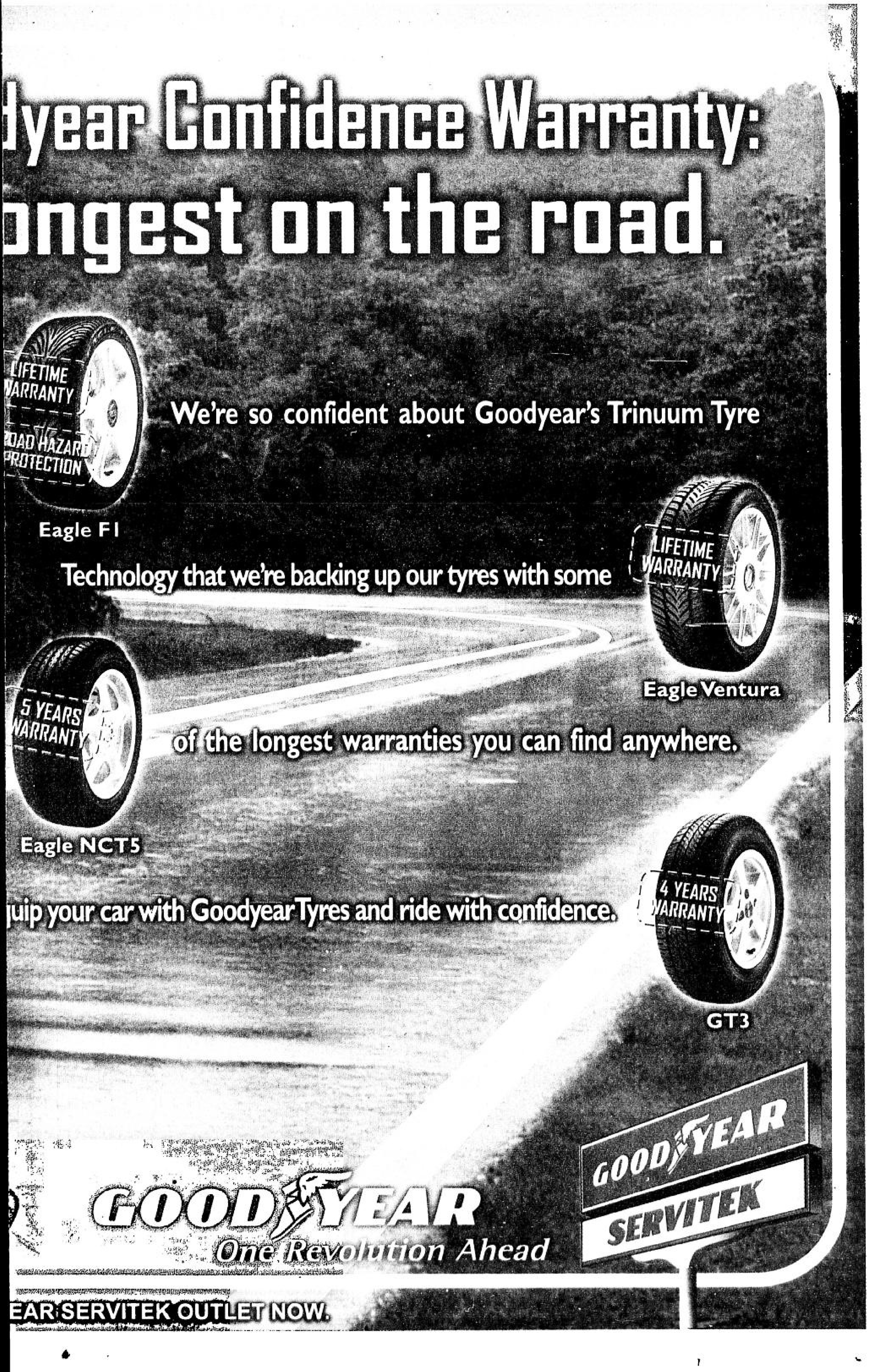
"It's very difficult to identify trafficking cases as some are (illegal) migrants," she said. "They come because they would like to work in Thailand, but they're not in the trafficking definition."

The Kredtrakarn Protection and Development Center, the largest of 90 government shelters in Thailand, last year launched a program to help trafficking victims.

Currently it is home to 211 young women and girls who were transported from Cambodia, China, Laos, Burma, Vietnam and provincial Thailand.

"Most of the girls here were found (by police or humanitarian workers) in big cities like Bangkok, and most worked in houses or factories or in sex services," said Monthip Kityingsopon, a social worker at the center.

"Some girls think they are going to serve food but when they arrive (the traffickers) change the work—they force the girls into sex services." *AFP*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REUTERS

VENEZUELAN President Hugo Chavez (right) embraces Cuban President Fidel Castro after the latter arrived at La Guaira Aug. 11. Castro, making his first trip abroad after a recent scare over his health, arrived in Venezuela to enjoy an early 75th birthday celebration with his friend and ally Chavez.

Castro starts 75th birthday party early

CIUDAD BOLIVAR, Venezuela—Cuban President Fidel Castro kicked off his 75th birthday celebrations early on Saturday in a visit to Venezuela where he was feted and hailed as a "youngster" by host Hugo Chavez.

Castro, making his first overseas trip since a recent scare over his health, was decorated by the Venezuelan president with a top civil honor in the colonial square of the historic southeastern city of Ciudad Bolivar, formerly known as Angostura.

The veteran Cuban leader, who suffered a public fainting fit last June 23, turns 75 Monday but was invited by fellow revolutionary Chavez to spend the days leading up to his birthday on Venezuelan soil.

Speaking after the award ceremony held in sweltering heat, the 47-year-old Chavez led the crowd in singing "Happy Birthdey Fidel," and in chants of "Fidel; Fidel."

He hailed the president of Cuba, who has led the communist-ruled Caribbean island since the 1959 Cuban Revolution, as "bullet proof."

Castro, his face flushed and wearing his trademark olive green uniform, complained of the heat and a hoarse voice. "My voice isn't too clear so I'm not going to make a long speech, it's very hot," he said, fanning himself with his cap.

Earlier, Chavez had welcomed the Cuban leader on his arrival at Maiquetia airport near Caracas as "this 75-year-old youngster, the same Fidel as ever."

In Ciudad Bolivar, Castro read a speech in which he praised Venezuela's 19th century independence hero Simon Bolivar, and attacked US "imperialism" and "neo-liberal globalization," which he said had brought poverty and oppression to the world.

"For the Cuban Revolution to live, it needs the Bolivarian Revolution," he said, referring to the current close trade and political ties which have converted oil-rich Venezuela into communist Cuba's closest strategic ally in Latin America.

Castro's weekend visit to Venezuela, his third in three years, was to combine cooperation talks and a sightseeing trip Sunday to a jungle national park near the Brazilian border. *Reuters*

August is full of bad memories for Russians

By Bernard Besserglik

MOSCOW—Coups and crashes, defeats and disasters: Russians are currently in the midst of a bad bout of anniversary-itis, and the memories that the month of August brings to mind are almost entirely unhappy.

Sunday sees solemn ceremonies taking place at the naval base of Vidyayevo, in Russia's far north, and Saint Petersburg, to honor the 118 seamen of the Kursk submarine that sank to the bottom of the Barents Sea exactly a year earlier.

The catastrophe, seen as emblematic of the ills that have afflicted Russia since it embarked on market reforms a decade ago, threw the country into a frenzy of introspection and self-recrimination.

Aug. 19 sees the 10th anniversary of the failed putsch that sealed the fate of the Soviet Union, stripping its leader Mikhail Gorbachev of real power and setting his nemesis, the recently elected Russian president Boris Yeltsin, firmly on the road to the Kremlin.

Though the state, founded by the revolutionaries of 1917, staggered on for another four months, it was the drama of August, and the sight of Yeltsin snarling his defiance to the Communist hardliners from the turret of a tank, that consigned the erstwhile superpower to the dustbin of history.

Of the many traumatic events that have punctuated Russia's turbulent post-Soviet decade, the financial crash that erupted in mid-August 1998 was one of the most enduring in its effects.

Though the subsequent massive ruble devaluation was later seen by some as a blessing in disguise, the crisis rocked the Russian economy to its foundations, sending banks into liquidation and triggering an exodus—at least momentarily—of western investors.

Russia's Chechen wars too have their summer anniversaries, notably the rebel invasion of Grozny on Aug. 6, 1996 which took a heavy toll of federal troops, shattering Yeltsin's Chechnya policy and leading directly to the Russian withdrawal at the end of the year.

Three years later, in the doldrums of August, the Chechen rebels began a series of attacks on neighboring Dagestan which—after several deadly bomb attacks on residential apartment blocks in Dagestan and Moscow—led to the Russians' return on Oct. 1, 1999.

Last year saw the cruelest August of all. The Kursk disaster was preceded by a blast in a busy underpass on Moscow's Pushkin square on Aug. 8, as yet unexplained, that killed 13 people and wounded 120 others.

And on Aug. 27, the Ostankino telecommunications tower in northern Moscow, Russia's voice to the world and the tallest free-standing structure in Europe, was severely damaged in a fire that also had analysts evoking symbols of decay and neglect. *AFP*

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Flash floods hit South; 5 missing

By Hernan P. dela Cruz
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PAGADIAN CITY—Flash floods struck Misamis Occidental, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga Sibugay, leaving at least five persons missing.

About P400 million worth of infrastructure facilities and farm products were destroyed.

Of the four provinces, Zamboanga del Sur suffered the most, according to lawyer Vicente M. Cerilles, in-charge of the relief and rescue operations.

Cerilles said some P250 million worth of infrastructure and agricultural products were destroyed in the province.

At least eight towns were submerged in water brought about by heavy rains since Saturday morning.

Six of the towns are situated in Salug Valley, the province's rice-producing area. These towns are Ramon Magsaysay, Sominot, Molave, Tambulig, Mahayag, Josefina, Dumingag and Bayog.

Molave Mayor Flavio Saniel said his town was most affected, with 13 barangays submerged in floodwater since Saturday.

Saniel said some 1,500 hectares of rice fields have been "washed out."

Some 2,500 families have sought refuge in three evacuation centers in the poblacion.

The flash flood, Saniel said, resulted from the swelling of the Salug Daku and Salug Diyot rivers as water overflowed from Lake Duminagat in the hinterlands of Don Victoriano town in Misamis Occidental.

In Tambulig, about 1,000 families from 12 barangays near the Panguil Bay have evacuated to the town proper, Cerilles said.

As of press time, about 60 persons were trapped in Barangay Balobo in Tambulig, he said.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary teams of Lanao del Norte, Ozamiz City and Pagadian City have deployed their personnel to help in the relief and rescue mission near Panguil Bay.

Engineer Celso Arsua, maintenance chief of the First Engineering District of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Zamboanga del Sur, said five bridges have been destroyed.

The Mendoza Bridge in Barangay Switch in Ramon Magsaysay town has been closed to cargo trucks and buses since Saturday. The bridge connects Ozamiz City and Pagadian City.

Thousands of motorists have been stranded.

Cerilles and Saniel urged Malacañang and the National Disaster Coordinating Council to immediately respond to their needs.

They said the calamity might affect tomorrow's plebiscite on the expanded Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Residents affected by the flood might not be able to cast their votes as many public schools in the barangays, which will be used in the political exercise, are either damaged or submerged in water, they said.

Local election officials expressed concern about the distribution of plebiscite paraphernalia, noting that 80 percent of the barangay roads in the towns are impassable.

"We urge the national government to please help us," Saniel said.

The municipal council of Molave yesterday passed a resolution declaring the town under a state of calamity.

As of yesterday afternoon, the town's disaster center reported that 50 houses have been destroyed while a woman and her 5-year-old son have been reported missing. The victims were last seen wading through floodwaters in Barangay Dipolo.

Three other unidentified persons were reported missing in Zamboanga del Norte, a local radio station reported.

A rescue team composed of soldiers of the 5th Infantry Battalion and local policemen were sent to the towns of Leon Postigo, Sindangan, and Katipunan in Zamboanga del Norte.

In Misamis Occidental, flash floods also struck in the towns of Bonifacio, Sergio Osmena and Don Victoriano, and Tangub City.

In Zamboanga Sibugay, the towns of Buug, Diplahan, Imelda, Alicia, Siay, Kabasalan, and Naga were submerged in water.

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3 dead in Negros landslide, flood

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Flash floods left three persons dead in a landslide and a flood that hit southern Negros Occidental Saturday night, according to Vicfran Defante, head of the Provincial Disaster Management Team.

In Barangay Santol, Binalbagan town, 62 km south of Bacolod, Nida Claveria, 42, drowned in a flash flood while rescue groups were still searching for her two children, Ronick, 9, and Iris, 3.

Romulo Claveria, her husband, told the police that at 10:45 p.m. Saturday, they heard water rushing toward their house about five meters from the river.

He said he rushed out of the house with two of their children Kenneth, 8, and Arian, 4, and brought them to safety.

His wife followed with their two other children but were met by rushing waters, he said.

His wife's body was found floating in waters along Sitio Tilangkoy, Barangay Payao, Binalbagan with injuries in the head and different parts of the body.

Romulo said their two children were still missing.

The flash flood that hit Barangay Santol, Binalbagan also forced 37 families to evacuate, Defante said. Two houses were destroyed, he added.

In Himamaylan City, 82 km from here, Mayor Carminia Bascon said she received a report that three persons were killed in a landslide in Barangay Carabalan caused by heavy rains.

The house of Andres Clamonte in Barangay 3, Himamaylan, was also washed away by floods.

Defante said Sipalay City proper, 178 km south of here, was flooded, but no casualties were reported.

Malaria, measles kill 15 tribesmen

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Fifteen Tiduray tribesmen, mostly children, have died during an outbreak of malaria and measles in a remote village in North Upi, Maguindanao.

Dr. Tahir Sulaik, Maguindanao health chief, said his personnel were having difficulty reaching Barangay Nalkan in the mountain range of Kansad Gadung Facal.

Sulaik said the village could be reached in 12 hours by foot.

"Even horses could not climb up the range and the natives could not bring down their sick children due to the difficult terrain," Sulaik said.

He said health workers had requested the use of at least two Huey helicopters from the Army's 6th Infantry Division. Brig. Gen. Roy Kyamko readily acted upon the appeal.

At least two medical missions have been sent to check the spread of the diseases.

"We pity the children because they are malnourished and weak," Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th ID said.

He said the Army was sending its own medical mission to augment the efforts of other teams already in the area.

Citing reports from Air Force personnel who accompanied the health workers to the village, Ando said one family buried two children one after the other.

One child died while his parents were mourning the death of another, he said.

Deonato Mokudef, a tribal leader, appealed to the government for relief goods and to assign permanent health workers to educate the natives on the importance of sanitation and to supervise the immunization of their children.

Sulaik said the natives should be taught that a measles victim has to be buried carefully so that the disease, which easily spreads through air, could be contained.

Pinatubo Aetas build new life in Army fort

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija—A concrete house, a 500-sq.-m. home lot and a three-hectare farm are what each of the 51 Aeta families in Sitio Bacao in Barangay Doña Josefa inside this Army Camp in Palayan City are going to get today.

Last Saturday, Letty Soria was brimming with excitement. "We are going to have our own land, finally," she said in Kapampangan.

Today's groundbreaking ceremony of the Mount Pinatubo Commission and the Department of Budget and Management for a resettlement site here and the turnover of 270 hectares from the Army's 7th Infantry Division are new, twin chapters in the exodus of Soria and other Aetas from Pampanga.

Ten years ago, they scampered out of Sapang Uwak and Villa Maria in Porac town and Sapang Bato and Target in Angeles City when Mt. Pinatubo, just near their homes at the Zambales mountain range, erupted in June 1991.

Used to the vastness of the mountain and the certainty of food supply through farming, Soria said they refused to continue living in evacuation centers where space was cramped and the provisions limited.

With the Benedictine nuns from the Holy Family Academy in Angeles City, she said their leaders went around Central Luzon looking for a land that approximated the environs of Pinatubo before it erupted.

Bacao, she recalled, is the land that is almost like Pinatubo. At Bacao, 270 families—many of them Aetas, and some of them *unat* (lowlanders)—moved to begin a new life.

"We are surrounded by mountains but there are parcels of flat land to till. Land is fertile here. There are trees, rivers and streams. From this hill, we can see Pinatubo on the west," Letty said of the land lent to them then by the Army.

They built houses of *sawali* and *cogon* on funds that the Benedictine community helped them to gather. And they resumed planting palay, *camote* and bananas, the excess of which they sold to the families of soldiers at the 34,115-hectare Fort Magsaysay.

Back then, leaving Bacao was always certain for many, according to Jun Soria, the chair of the Luntiang Samahan ng Aetang Magsasaka.

"Many wanted to return to our old villages in Mt. Pinatubo. They wanted to revive the land they left there," he said.

Returnees

Three years ago, Jun recalled that 219 Aeta families returned to Sapang Bato and Target in Angeles City.

Pan Fred, their leader, said that in returning, they braced the risks of a hostile environment.

Sapang Bato is known to have been the dump of toxic wastes from the former Clark Air Base. Target, located at the periphery of the base, is a former United States gunnery range where unexploded ordnance might have been left lying around, Jun said.

Pan Fred said Clark Development Corp., a government base-conversion body, was also claiming the Aetas' land as part of the Clark Special Economic Zone's sub-zone.

But others, like Soria, did not have lands to return to.

"The lowlanders took the lands. Or lahar buried these. Where land was available, it was not possible yet to till these because of the thick sand," Jun said.

"The land is the government's gift to them," said Lt. Col. Leo Cresente Ferrer, head of the 7th ID's civil-military affairs office.

Early last year, the division also turned over 3,100 hectares of land inside the military reservation to settlers who had been there before the fort, which had originally 71,000 hectares, was established.

The Department of Agriculture is assisting these settlers and the Aetas through farming technology, Ferrer said.

The land distribution program to the Aetas and the pioneer settlers is part of the division's Civilian and Military Personnel for Growth and Modernization in Agriculture (CAMP-GMA) program.

He said the village east of the fort is safe, being located away from where the Armed Forces of the Philippines and their counterparts from the United States hold military training and exercises related to the Visiting Forces Agreement.

The 7th ID also conducts regular medical missions in Bacao, he said.

For the Aeta resettlement, Ferrer said a battalion from the 51st engineering brigade would build the houses.

MPC administrator Flor Arrozal considers the Aeta program part of the agency's exit phase that began last December.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 33° Lo 22°
Laoag	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 30° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 31° Lo 26°
Calapan	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 31° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 29 Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 29° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 31° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 29° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 29° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Chona B. Galang, PDI Research/08/13/01

ROUNDUP

Kidnap suspects nabbed

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police arrested three suspected kidnappers at Barangay Dau in Mabalacat town here on Thursday. Jeffrey Paderon, 24, Ric Reyes, 36, and Cristy Gozon, 18, were charged with kidnapping for ransom after they allegedly detained their two victims for three days and demanded a P12-million ransom. Confiscated from the suspects were a 12-gauge shotgun, a .22 cal. revolver and six bullets. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Police chief shot dead

COTABATO CITY—An unidentified gunman shot dead the chief of police of Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur, on Thursday while the official was on his way to the regional police headquarters here. Senior Insp. Antonio Rodriguez, 43, died while being brought to the Cotabafo Emergency Hospital about 4 a.m. Rodriguez and another police officer, identified as Insp. Henrietta Bantigan of PNP-ARMM, were inside a parked jeepney when the lone gunman shot him from behind. Supt. Amerodin Hamdag, city police director, said the gunman took Rodriguez's wallet. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

5 women held hostage

DAVAO CITY—An alleged drug-crazed houseboy held hostage five women who were his former employers on Aurora Mabini Boulevard here on Thursday. Ten members of the Special Anti-Terrorist Unit of the city police arrived at the area and arrested Rodolfo Pescadero, 27, but only after he had wounded one of the hostages, Dr. Rosalita Domingo, and three policemen. Pescadero was brought to the Davao Medical Center for treatment of bruises he suffered during the scuffle with the lawmen. He was later taken to the Sta. Ana police station. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ombudsman clears mayor

DIGOS CITY—The Ombudsman of Mindanao cleared the mayor of Hagonoy town and six other officials of wrongdoing in the bidding of a bridge project funded by the Asian Development Bank as claimed by a local contractor. In a resolution dated June 25, the Ombudsman said Mayor Jose Superales Sr. and other members of the town's Pre-qualification Bids and Awards Committee acted in good faith when it disqualified Antonio Te from the bidding of the P20-million bridge in Lapulabao village. In a complaint filed before the May elections, Te, owner of Tesston Construction and Supplies, accused the mayor of unfairly easing him out of the bidding in favor of a rival firm. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

New anti-crime watchdog

DUMAGUETE CITY—A new group which aims to help the government combat crime and illegal drugs was launched here last Wednesday. The National Anti-Crime and Illegal Drugs Association is envisioned to serve as an umbrella organization of government-deputized civilian groups, such as Bantay Bayan, Drug Watch and the Neighborhood Anti-Crime Alliance. *Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Recall of police bodyguards

TAGBILARAN CITY—Vice Gov. Julius Caesar Herrera wants all police bodyguards working for local politicians recalled and returned to their respective police stations to help address the lack of policemen in the province. Herrera suggested that the bodyguards be returned to active duty after Supt. Augustus Marquez, provincial police director, reported that his command needed 300 more personnel. *Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Concert for priests

THE HERMANOS Y Hermanas de Zamboanga Foundation Inc. chapter in Cebu is sponsoring a concert to raise funds for the building of a "Home for the Aged Priests" in Zamboanga City. Foundation Chair Edgar C. Muñoz said the concert would feature the Parakletos, a group of singing priests from the cities of Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro and Cebu on Aug. 26, 8-10 p.m., at the St. Theresa's College Auditorium in Cebu City.

Whale's death probed

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A top official of the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium ruled out "environmental factor" in the death of a false killer whale featured in the Ocean Adventure marine park here. "Water at the Ilanin Bay, which is where Ocean Adventure operates, is good and it is teeming with fish," SBME chief executive officer Timothy Desmond said. He gave assurance that they are doing their best to track down the cause of the animal's death. Deuce (the whale's name), one of five false killer whales featured in Ocean Adventure's whale encounter program, died on July 30, four days after it showed signs of weakness. *Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

GSIS strength cited

CABANATUAN CITY—Members of the Government Service Insurance System need not worry about its stability because it is healthy and strong financially, according to Reynaldo Palmeiry, GSIS executive vice president. Palmeiry said the GSIS has P194 billion in assets and P26 billion in revenue as of June. "In fact, it is one of the strongest financial institutions in the country," he said in a speech during the launching here of the GSIS' Bahay Ko housing loan program last week.
Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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Ombudsman asked to probe Iloilo hospital irregularities

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Close to a hundred alumni and volunteer physicians at a state university-owned hospital here asked the Ombudsman to probe the irregularities in the purchase of medical equipment worth P2 million.

The group, which calls itself "Concerned Consultants, Alumni and Taxpayers at West Visayas State University and the WVSU Hospital" submitted to the Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas on Friday documents regarding alleged irregularities in the hospital's procurement system.

The documents consisted of a special audit report of the Commission on Audit and the complaints earlier submitted to university officials but which were not acted upon.

"We can no longer wait. The university officials are too slow to act on our long-standing concerns," said Dr. Ronnie Samoro, president of the WVSU Resident Physician's Alumni Association.

The COA said in a report released July 13 that the government lost about P1.5 million in buying hospital equipment because the WVSUH did not get the cheaper brands.

The COA also noted that some WVSUH officers, including Director Dr. Ramon Guerra, allegedly abused their authority and position by imposing surcharges on some patients, drawing water from the hospital filter system for their home use and charging some of their phone bills to the hospital.

Guerra could not be reached for comment but in an interview last week, he brushed aside the charges as "old issues." He said the complaining doctors were interested in his post.

Also last week, Dr. Lourdes Arañador, president of the WVSU, said she would try to bring Guerra and his critics to a dialogue to patch things up.

Arañador said she had already given the COA report to lawyers Noberto Posecion, the university legal counsel, and Gerardo Erebaren, representing the faculty, and Cynthia Ng of the alumni association, for their review and recommendation.

But Samoro and Dr. Louie Tirador, president of the WVSU College of Medicine Alumni Association, said Posecion might not be able to give an "unbiased assessment" of the audit report since he was Guerra's lawyer in the two administrative cases filed against him in 1992 and 1994.

Iloilo City Rep. Raul Gonzalez has threatened to conduct a congressional inquiry into the issues raised in the COA report.

REPAIR work goes full swing at the Quirino Bridge in Ilocos Sur, which was damaged by typhoon "Feria" early last month.
LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

Aug. 25 deadline for bridge repair

SANTA, Ilocos Sur—The woes brought about by the collapse of the Quirino Bridge could be over on Aug. 25 if authorities beat their own deadline.

Mabey & Johnson Ltd., a United Kingdom-based construction firm assisting government engineers in repairing the bridge, is installing a one-lane bailey bridge to replace the wiped-out span.

The historic Quirino Bridge, situated between Banaoang Bantay and Banaoang Santa towns, is the main link to the first district of Ilocos Sur, including Vigan City and Ilocos Norte.

The project is part of the presidential bridge program under the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Kada Alpha of Mabey & Johnson told the Inquirer that they were working hard to complete the project in two weeks.

"We need to repair the bridge the soonest to normalize the situation in the affected areas of the province," said Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano.

The 73.4-meter middle span collapsed at the height of typhoon "Feria" on July 4.

While the bridge is undergoing repair, commuters and light vehicles are ferried across the Abra River through boats and barges.

Due to complaints of overloading and excessive fees, the Ilocos Sur provincial government has formed Task Force Banaoang to address the problems raised by the residents and commuters. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Vietnamese rice shipment seized

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A cargo ship loaded with smuggled Vietnamese premium rice amounting to P6 million was seized by lawmen in Sibutad, Zamboanga del Norte, where it temporarily docked on its way to Ozamiz City.

The Mystical Rose, owned by the Cebu-based Tricia Shipping Lines, with its cargo of 8,727 bags of premium rice arrived here Thursday.

Nine soldiers of the Army's 101st Infantry Brigade escorted the shipment from Zamboanga del Norte.

Customs district collector Marietta Zamoranos said the ship's captain, Ricardo Limsiaco, failed to show documents covering the cargo.

He was held along with two other crew members. Eight others had earlier jumped ship shortly before the cargo was seized.

"The boat's captain wasn't even able to show us the documents or even the master's roll book, the manifest and other pertinent documents of his cargo," Zamoranos said.

Limsiaco issued inconsistent statements as to the origin of the cargo.

In one interview, he said the ship came from Sultan Kudarat but he told the Inquirer they sailed from Manila.

He identified a certain Roger Samonte of Zamboanga del Norte as the consignee of the rice cargo. He said Samonte instructed him to bring the rice to Ozamiz, which authorities have identified as a haven for rice smugglers.

The seized cargo will be stored in a warehouse and would be auctioned if unclaimed. ***Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Fire hits NFA rice warehouse

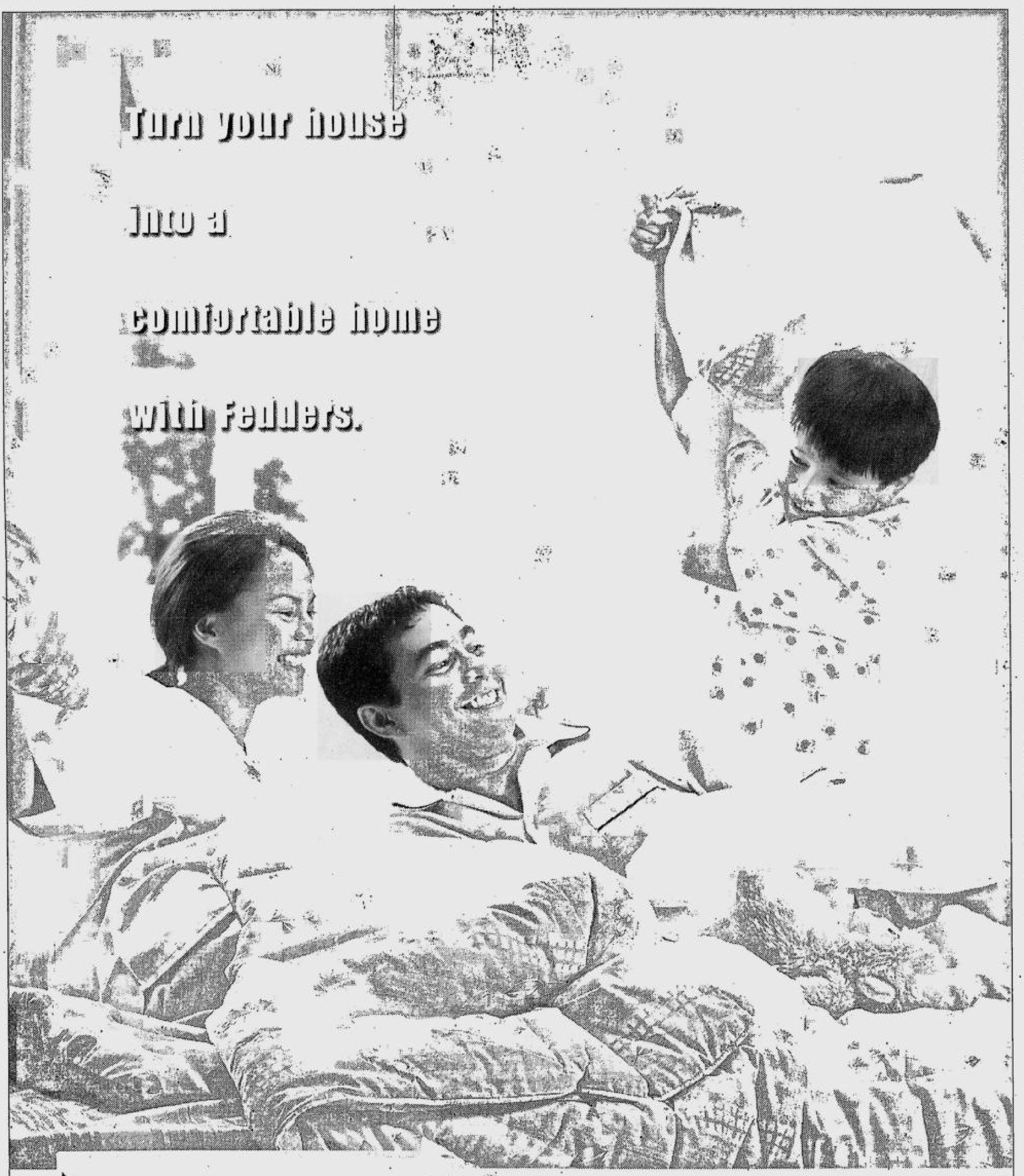
CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Some P20 million worth of imported rice from Vietnam and Thailand were either burned or damaged when a fire hit a National Food Authority warehouse in Barangay Gusa here.

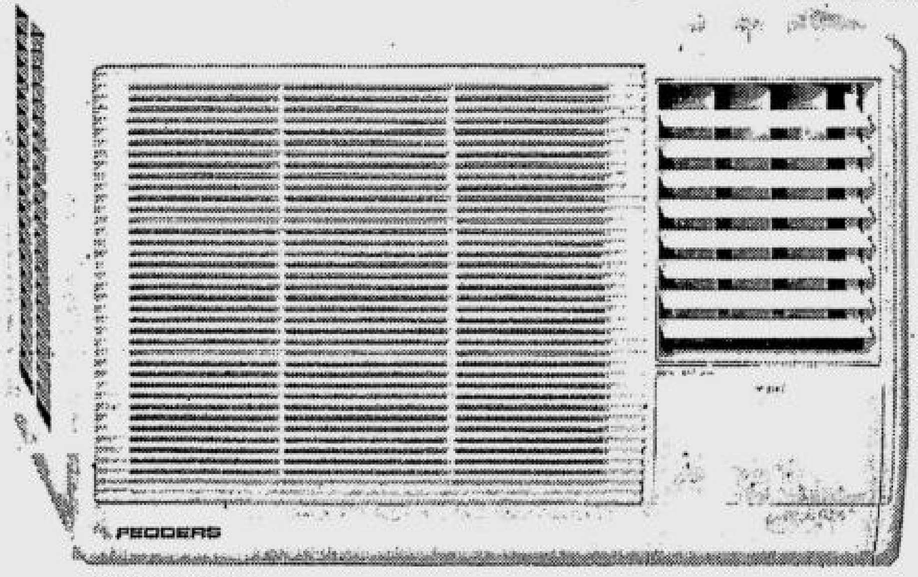
Mariano Lagura Jr., NFA regional operations director, said some 50,000 sacks of rice were burned or damaged.

The warehouse contained 127,000 sacks of rice that were scheduled to be distributed to NFA grains retailers in Northern Mindanao and Caraga.

But Lagura said the incident should not be cause for alarm "since we still have ample supply left for distribution."

The remaining imported rice has been transferred to other NFA warehouses. ***Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***





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NPA 'mass grave' found in Misamis

By Grace C. Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SALAY, Misamis Oriental—Another mass grave of alleged victims of the New People's Army's purging in the mid-1980s, was dug up in Barangay Bunal here on Thursday.

Found were the skeletal remains of Antonio Awiten, 33; Virgino Caalaman, 45; Leo Aliwate, 30; Nober Macula, 17; and Rudy Lutawan, 15, all of Barangay Looc.

Another victim, Macrina Cañus, 21, was a resident of Barangay Roa-Roa in nearby Lagonglong town.

Cañus was an NPA member while the five other victims were alleged rebel supporters accused of being government deep-penetration agents.

Pastor Jieto Yamo of the United Methodist Church, who claimed that he was with members of the group who were killed but survived the purge, said the victims were tortured before they were beheaded.

"We were only asked one question, 'Are you the informer?' They gave us two choices: If we admitted we would be freed and if we denied, we would die. Others who feared they would be killed admitted. Still, they were killed. I did not admit (anything)," Yamo recounted.

He said a certain Ka Samar led the purge.

Yamo said he was "held" for almost a month before his NPA captors freed him.

After his ordeal, Yamo said he went to Bukidnon and became a pastor.

"I promised God that (if I am) given a chance to live I would serve Him. I am fulfilling that promise now," he said.

The purge in the mid-1980s prompted some residents of Salay, Lagonglong and other nearby towns to evacuate.

The residents returned to their homes only years later.

In 1997, the NPA sent their indemnification fee of P10,000 for each victim and a letter asking for forgiveness.

The NPA admitted that about 900 people were killed in Misamis Oriental as a result of the infamous cleansing campaign dubbed "Kampanyang Ahos or Kahos."

Bohol politicians beat Cebu rivals in 2 polls

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Boholano politicians trounced their Cebuano counterparts in two equally envied positions Friday.

Bohol Vice Gov. Julius Caesar Herrera won the national presidency of the League of Vice Governors of the Philippines (LVGP) by defeating Cebu Vice Gov. John Gregory Osmeña.

Herrera, younger brother of former Sen. Ernesto Herrera, won over the son of Sen. John Osmeña by a vote of 34 to 26, in the election held at the Hyatt Regency in Manila.

Hours later, Gov. Erico Aumentado topped the elections held in Cebu City for the chairmanship of the Regional Development Council (RDC) in Central Visayas by besting Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia.

Aumentado got 42 votes and Garcia, 25. Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz was third with 16, followed by Siquijor Gov. Orlando Fua, 15.

Governors covet the RDC chairmanship since the body is influential in determining and giving priority to development projects in the region.

Both Herrera and Aumentado had Boholano predecessors.

Herrera takes over from now Rep. Edgar Chatto (first district) while Aumentado is poised to assume the post vacated by his bitter political rival, ex-Gov. Rene Relampagos.

Herrera told his staff here over the telephone that his election materialized following the decision of Pampanga Vice Gov. Mickey Arroyo to withdraw from the race.

Herrera said he was set to vie only for executive vice president until Arroyo declined the post.

Before his election as vice governor, Herrera served as acting national president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines after the detention of then San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada.

BIMP-EAGA MEET

Security tight at tourism gab

COTABATO CITY—Thousands of Army soldiers and policemen were deployed here and neighboring Maguindanao towns over the weekend to secure Asian officials and business representatives attending the 9th joint tourism conference of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asean Growth Area.

The first to arrive among Malaysian tourism officials and business representatives immediately noted the heavy presence of uniformed men.

Local military spokesperson Maj. Joselito Ando said the soldiers were part of a "battalion-size Army and intelligence operatives contingent to monitor (the) movement of suspicious-looking people."

An unidentified visitor asked a local facilitator whether the city would be under siege and that the soldiers were up in arms against Gov. Nur Misuari for his recent warning on the government of a bloody plebiscite.

Tomorrow's plebiscite will be on the territorial and administrative expansion of Misuari's turf, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Ando did not say whether Misuari's renewed threat was part of the military preparation on the reported threat. But Marine soldiers securing the Polloc Port in Maguindanao told the Inquirer that there were reports of attacks by anti-government forces.

But Filipino counterparts of the tourism visitors noted the sharp contrast in security measures being applied locally and those of the guests' points of origin, like Malaysia and Brunei, where police and security personnel, they said, were only armed with wooden clubs.

Mayor Muslimin Sema said participants would instead experience first-hand how the government is gaining ground in its continuing efforts to resolve local security problem and, in the process, boost domestic trade and the tourism industry.

Tourism officials led by Sohura Dimaampao, Department of Tourism director for Central Mindanao, appreciated the military's security preparation, saying it was part of the government's homework to secure the three-day conference.

Dimaampao said participants to the conference were expected to focus on tourism program exchanges among Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East Asean Growth Area, including cross-border agreements; air and sea linkages, visa requirements and other areas of tourism-related cooperation.

Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau

SO ALL OUR FRIENDS (and DETRACTORS too) MAY KNOW:

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So it has been, and will be, with Power Homes. Lately, some tabloid "columnists" have again tried to attract attention by pelting Power Homes with insults, intrigues and lies. Strangely, by their own admission, these self-appointed "investigators" tell us that they are in the dark as to how Power Homes does it business. One of them even dared us to grant him an interview, but this was already after he had poisoned the public about us. Of course, we will have nothing to do with him and his ilk with closed minds; we would rather speak out to you direct from our open heart.

You know better. Those of you who have done business with us know the truth about Power Homes. Our clients and friends nationwide who know the inside story will find the hearsay-based lies peddled by our detractors too ridiculous even to outsiders who can see nothing concrete in what our detractors say. Luckily, the courts and our administrative agencies rely on hard evidence before they pass judgment. Not so with our detractors: they condemn first before they hear. But then, who cares about them?

The next time you read or hear anything against Power Homes, come to us directly. Like you, we believe that the truth will always prevail. No amount of lies can kill a tree that bears good fruit and delivers something good. That tree is our Power Homes. Help us protect its good name and all that it stands for.

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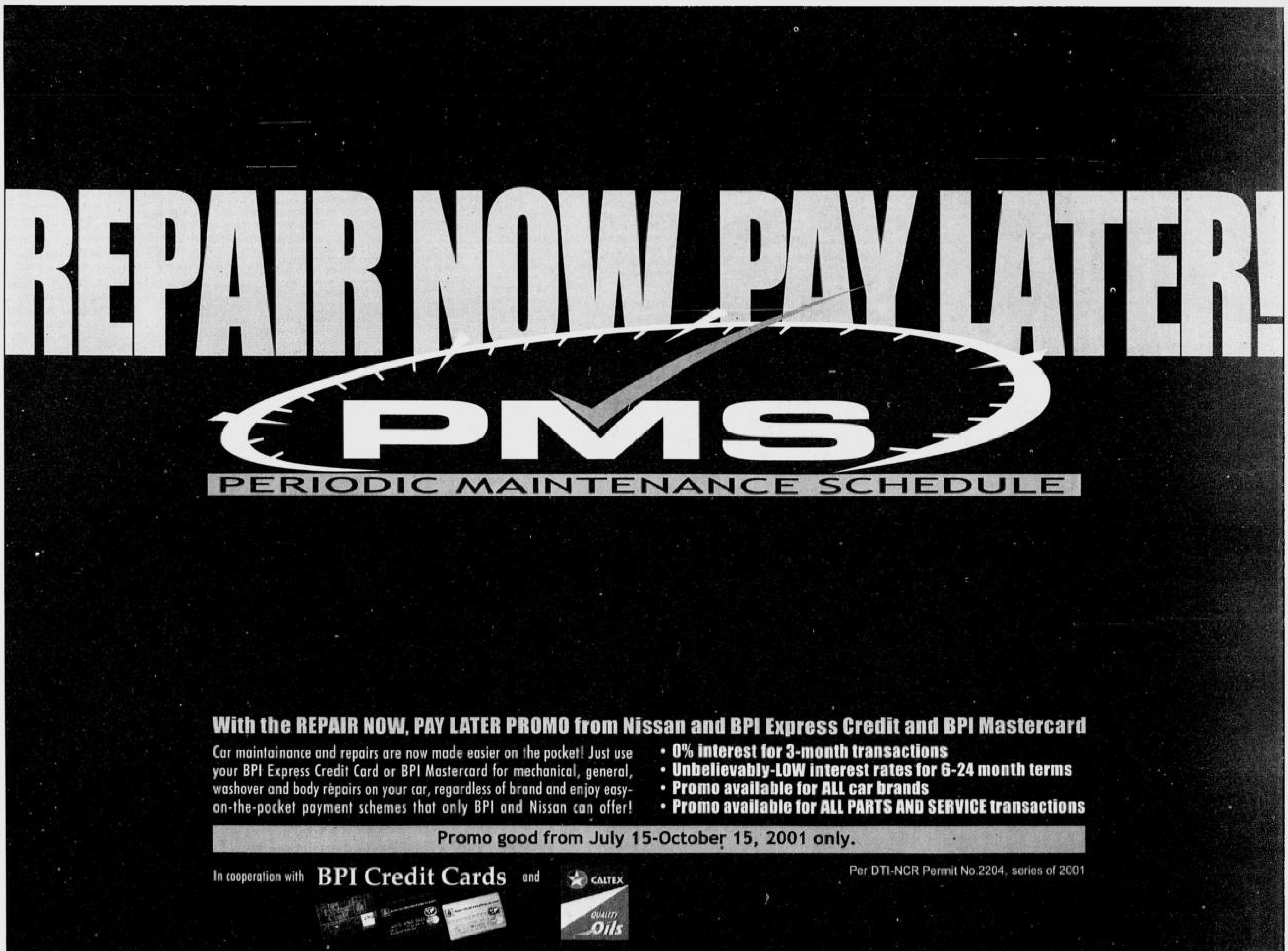

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NISSAN
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Suspected NPA hit men kill leader of rival communist group

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Suspected New People's Army hit men killed a high-ranking leader of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbo ng Bayan (RHB) on Thursday, signaling fresh rounds of retaliation between the two feuding communist groups in Central Luzon, police said.

Three men in their 30s, armed with M-16 and M-14 rifles, peppered the body of Reynaldo Lagman, also known as Ka Carla, with 33 bullets, reports gathered by the INQUIRER said.

Lagman, 54, was recuperating in a house in Barangay San Agustin in Sta. Ana town, 25 kilometers from here, when the gunmen attacked him from behind at past 4 p.m.

His relatives said Lagman, afflicted with tuberculosis, was not able to put up a fight. The torrents of shots crushed his jaw, severed his arms and leg, and exposed his internal organs, the relatives said.

Witnesses said the assailants boarded a green van and sped toward the town proper.

Before he was killed, Lagman replaced the late Bartolome Quizon, alias Ka Joebay, the RHB regional chief military cadre slain by the NPA in December last year, according to Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Pampanga police chief.

"*Naggigirian na naman sila*. Expect (a) new round of bloodletting," he said.

Immediately after the NPA's Josepino Corpus Command admitted the killing of Quizon, the RHB demanded revolutionary justice by executing four men in separate operations.

Rafanan said the feud between the NPA and its breakaway faction cooled down last election. The rivalry began shaping up again last June over what Rafanan called squabbles on protection money, allegations that the police regularly accused the communist groups.

The NPA has not yet claimed or denied responsibility for Lagman's killing.

But RHB spokesperson Red Olalia on Friday identified the NPA to be behind the killing, which he described as "cowardly and cold-bloodedly."

"We are certain the NPA in Central Luzon has formed teams of its regional special operations group tasked to assassinate cadres and Red fighters of the RHB and revolutionary activists and leaders of both the open and the underground mass movement," Olalia said in a statement.

He said the NPA was "provoking (an) escalation of killings."

He added, however, that the RHB would not be provoked to do "haphazard actions tantamount to the NPA's criminal, counter-revolutionary and anti-people activities." ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

ANNOUNCEMENT

TO : ALL LANDOWNERS WHOSE LANDS ARE COVERED BY THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP)

In the interest of the service and to further accelerate the completion of acquisition and distribution of lands covered under CARP pursuant to Republic Act No. 6657, the Department of Agrarian Reform has established a Landowners' Assistance Desk (LOAD) in the Bureau of Land Acquisition and Distribution (BLAD), DAR Central Office.

It is envisioned to be a one-stop shop where landowners can be provided information and assistance relative to transactions on agricultural lands covered by Operation Land Transfer (OLT) as well as those under the Voluntary Offer to Sell (VOS), Compulsory Acquisition (CA) and Voluntary Land Transfer/Direct Payment (VLT/DP) schemes.

The LOAD is located at the ground floor of the DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone numbers 926-89-63 or 928-70-31 to 39 (Local 523).

Landowners residing in the province where these lands are located may contact either the Regional Director, the Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer or the Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer concerned. Counterpart desk officers or point persons have been designated to handle critical areas of concern.

For particulars, please visit the aforesaid Office or communicate with:

The Office of the Director
Bureau of Land Acquisition & Distribution
Department of Agrarian Reform
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

HERNANI A. BRAGANZA
Secretary

August 13, 2001 -- Inquirer

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Brunei seen as venue of next MILF-gov't talks

DIGOS CITY—The next round of negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front would probably be held in Brunei.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the oil-rich country had already signified its intention to host the talks sometime in September.

"Indonesia is also one of the possible venues but the situation there is very unstable so it would probably be Brunei," Kabalu said.

He said that on top of the agenda would be the drafting of the mechanics and implementing guidelines of the rehabilitation of areas devastated by the MILF-government war.

The MILF presented at least three issues when it agreed to resume negotiating with the government in April.

These are the cessation of hostilities under the security aspect of the peace talks, the rehabilitation of war-torn areas and the ancestral domain claim of the Bangsamoro.

The implementing rules of the security aspect was signed in Malaysia early this week. It put in place a rejuvenated ceasefire agreement based on the 1996 accord on the cessation of hostilities signed in Cagayan de Oro City.

Kabalu said he did not expect any major problems in the discussion about the rehabilitation issue as both sides have admitted that the measure is badly needed.

"A question could arise from the issue of reparation of war damages," he said. ***Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

MILF leader surrenders

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A high-ranking official of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and 20 of his followers surrendered to the government here on Thursday.

Nadsid Abedin Akmad, alias Commander Faizal of the MILF's 204th Brigade, and 20 former MILF fighters took their oath of allegiance to the Constitution in simple turnover rites at the Phela Grande Convention Center.

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. attended the ceremony.

Faizal and his men also surrendered 11 high-powered firearms during the affair.

Faizal is a former chair of Kabataang Barangay in Bentung, Polomolok, South Cotabato. He entered the Philippine Military Academy in 1979, but he was dropped from the roster of the country's premier military school after a background check revealed that he was a supporter of the Moro National Liberation Front.

He went back to General Santos City and took up AB English at the Notre Dame of Dadiangas College. After finishing the course in 1983, he went to Silliman University in Dumaguete City where he took up Law.

He did not finish his Law course as he joined with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

He was designated to head the MILF's 204th Brigade operating in the hinterlands of Polomolok, Tupi, T'boli, Banga, Surallah and General Santos.

During his speech, Faizal said the miserable condition of his Moro brothers and his desire to get back at the government for expelling him from the PMA were the main reasons that prompted him to join the rebel group.

South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes, one of the guests, said the government should not give the rebel returnees a reason to return to the hills.

She vowed to provide not only land but also livelihood for them to start life anew.

Guingona told the surrenderers that there was "nothing dishonorable" in their decision to surrender.

Cases of dengue fever increasing in Ilocandia

SAN FERNANDO CITY—More dengue cases were recorded in the Ilocos region this year compared with the number during the peak period of the disease in 1998.

As of Aug. 5, 941 cases, including six fatalities, were reported in hospitals and rural health units in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan.

In 1998, hospitals recorded at least 400 cases with 13 fatalities. The list, however, did not include those in the rural health units.

La Union, which was the most affected in 1998, is still the most vulnerable to dengue in the region with 339 cases and a fatality.

Pangasinan followed with 306 cases, including four fatalities; Ilocos Sur, 248 cases, one fatality; and Ilocos Norte, 48 cases.

Jovencio Orduña, regional director of the Department of Health, said the increase in reported cases could be attributed to more people now seeking medical attention, even for slight fever, for fear that they have the disease.

While most of the victims were schoolchildren, records showed that more and more adults in the region have become vulnerable to the diseases, and some have died of it, Orduna said.

Both the adult dengue-carrying mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti*) and their eggs should be eliminated to stop the spread of the disease, he pointed out.

He said the regional DOH had bought chemicals as early as December last year and started fogging operations in the region in March. ***Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 13, 2001
19th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Dt 10:12-22**
Gospel: **Mt 17:22-27**

While Jesus was in Galilee with the Twelve, he said to them, "The Son of Man will be delivered into human hands, and they will kill him. But he will rise on the third day." The Twelve were deeply grieved.

On returning to Capernaum, the Temple tax collectors came to Peter and asked him, "Does your master pay the temple tax?" He answered, "Certainly."

Peter then entered the house, but immediately Jesus asked him, "What do you think, Simon? Who pay taxes or tributes to the kings of the earth: their sons or the other people?" Peter replied, "The others." And Jesus told him, "The sons, then, are tax-free. But so as not to offend this people, go to the sea, throw in a hook and open the mouth of the first fish you catch. You will find a coin in it, take it and let it pay for you and for me."

Commentary

Today's reading deals with a controversial issue at the time of the early Christianity, namely the relationship of Christians with the synagogue and Judaism. Because of regular harassment many Christians were not very much inclined to pay temple tax. Jesus affirms that Christians are indeed free from these taxes, but invites them to act as free people and not to give offense. This reading offers also today a number of very valid applications. No one is perfect. We have our own lives. Within this setting the question can be raised, what is our attitude towards the people who gave us our religion, even if we may have serious objections against the way it was done?

Heavenly Father, grant us the graciousness of showing gratitude towards those to whom we owe so much.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE/CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—There is no direct evidence as to who actually killed the victim. Nevertheless, direct evidence of the commission of the crime is not the only matrix whereby the trial court may draw its conclusions and findings of guilt. It is settled that conviction may be based on circumstantial evidence provided that the following requisites must concur: (a) there is more than one circumstance; (b) the fact from which the inferences are derived are proven; and (c) the combination of all the circumstances is such as to produce a conviction beyond reasonable doubt. Circumstantial evidence is of a nature identically the same with direct evidence. It is equally direct evidence of minor facts of such a nature that the mind is led intuitively or by a conscious process of reasoning to the conviction that from them some other fact may be inferred. No greater degree of certainty is required when the evidence is circumstantial than when it is direct. In either case, what is required is that there be proof beyond reasonable doubt that the crime was committed and that the accused committed the crime. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Oliva, G.R. No. 106826, January 18, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Kidnap groups target 10 traders

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Kidnap-for-ransom groups in Western Mindanao are reportedly planning to seize at least 10 prominent businessmen and civic leaders in Zamboanga City.

The latest report, allegedly coming from the military, has sent fears among local businessmen.

Jane Tong, chair of Barangay Recodo and relative of a shipyard magnate in the city, confirmed that the family had received reports that one of her relatives is included in the list of probable targets.

Last year, two suspected kidnappers were killed by members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force in the foiled abduction of Jaime Tong in Recodo.

Victor Liozo Jr., local chapter administrator of the Philippine National Red Cross, claimed that he was also being targeted for abduction by a group operating in Western Mindanao.

Liozo said he had stopped traveling alone since receiving the information.

The PNRC official, however, declined to mention who else were in the list.

Col. Francisco Gudani, deputy commander of the military's Southern Command, and Supt. Mario Yanga, city police director, said they were still verifying the report.

But Yanga said he had doubts whether the kidnap groups can push through with their plans in the city.

"We have taken the necessary security measures to prevent kidnapping in the city," he said.

Several businessmen and foreigners had been abducted in the past, prompting city government officials to propose the creation of an anti-crime task force. ***Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Baguio eyes Guinness with largest salad

(From page A1)

At its best, the salad will also be the most indigenously prepared appetizer.

Outside of 10 to 15 tons of Benguet-grown lettuce, carrot, green pepper and cucumber, the city may beat thousands of homegrown eggs to make its distinct mayonnaise base for the Baguio salad, said Victor Calimlim, a vegetable trader and member of the city's 92nd charter anniversary committee.

City Administrator Virgilio Bautista said the proposed feat should help restore the prominence of Baguio's tourism trade by capitalizing on Benguet's vegetable industry.

Vegetables have always been the city's most consistent tourist attraction in the last 92 years, he acknowledged in a press forum here last week.

An Internet research showed that the biggest tossed garden salad, documented in the Guinness Book of World Records, belonged to Salt Lake City, Utah. It fed about 1,000 people.

Bautista said the city's hoteliers and restaurateurs have opted to toss "not just the biggest, but also the heaviest, salad in the world," using dressing available in Benguet's farmland.

"We can beat that (world record in Utah). *Kayang kaya iyan* (We can easily beat that)," he said.

The Salt Lake Caesar's Salad was prepared on Sept. 14, 2000 by the Utah Five-a-Day Association and its partners at Hotel Monaco there.

The Utah association sliced 12 cases of Romaine lettuce, which was mixed in 14 gallons of Caesar's salad dressing.

The salad was topped with 20 pounds of Parmesan cheese, five pounds of garlic, 40 loaves of croutons and six tins of anchovies.

Salt Lake Mayor Rocky Anderson, Utah Department of Health Deputy Director Scott Williams, and Salt Lake Tribune food editor Kathy Stephenson witnessed the feat.

It was recorded about 1 p.m., before the salad was served in plates filled with grilled vegetables, bread and apples.

Scott Blackerby, a Guinness record titlist for preparing the biggest *paella* dish, also prepared the salad. Blackerby set his *paella* record at the Anatole Hotel in Dallas, Texas.

Bautista said the city's hotel and restaurant owners had yet to decide on their recipe.

Calimlim said farmers would still need to assess their production to meet the schedule.

"It is a good thing this is being done in September where the demand for Baguio vegetables is not so tight. But the city will need to consider that Manila hotels and restaurants still buy vegetables, so we need to meet both their orders by September," he said.

"We don't even know who will be paying for all of these vegetables. *Siyempre, dito kikita ng malaki ang* farmers (For sure, local farmers would earn from this)."

Benguet supplies the city market and Metro Manila markets with five to 10 tons of vegetables every week. Ten tons of lettuce cost P50,000.

Bautista said the feat should be worth the city's while.

The city government had been hard put at resuscitating Baguio's diminishing appeal as the country's top tourist drawer, after the city's tourism was cited as a key development zone for the Central East Asia Growth Circle program.

BSP predicts stronger peso

(From page A1)

be stable at best," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a radio interview.

The peso closed at an eight-week high of 51.85 to the dollar on Friday, a 2.2 percent rise from its Thursday close of 53.

The peso strengthened after currency speculators were driven out of the market last week when the BSP slapped punitive fines on nine banks, including Hong kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC), Standard Chartered Bank and Citibank for violating trading procedures.

Banks' reserve requirements were also raised for the second time in two weeks to protect the embattled peso.

"The speculators come in and take advantage if there is panic. But the occasion for speculation ended when we tightened regulation and monitoring (of) excess liquidity in the system," Buenaventura said.

He said speculators had taken advantage of a perception of a deteriorating peace and order in the country as well as an unresolved hostage crisis in Basilan by aggressively buying dollars, choking off supply.

"Some bank clients abused the situation and some bank officers were found to have helped the dollars get out of the system," he said.

He said there had been violations by banks of rules limiting the amount of dollars a person could buy without documentation.

Although an individual is limited to buying only $5,000 from banks without permits, some bank branch managers had gone around this rule by selling dollars to the same person using several names.

The crackdown on banks is aimed at shoring up the peso's strength to the 50-to-the-dollar level, which analysts said was its realistic value.

Clarification

But banks are not taking lying down the BSP's unprecedented name-and-shame campaign. The banks are seeking clarification of laws under which they have been sanctioned and are suggesting that they may have been wrongly penalized.

It was the first time the independent central bank had identified a large number of banks deemed violating foreign exchange regulations.

"We said we are going to penalize you but please stop. Since they did not stop, we decided to publish their names," Buenaventura said.

"Some of the banks were saying, 'we were not informed of this, we were not aware of these violations.' That's a lot of nonsense," he said.

Following the action, the BSP has threatened to expose more such banks and impose harsher penalties on them—including raising the fines tenfold, suspending them from trading, and identifying and suspending individual bank officers who executed illicit trades.

The unparalleled action came after President Macapagal-Arroyo, concerned over the sharp depreciation of the peso, urged the BSP to crack down on speculators and prop up the Philippine currency to the "fundamental" level of 50 to the dollar.

The President also warned that exchange controls could be used if necessary to stop the peso rot.

More reluctant

The tough action against speculators "will clearly make banks more reluctant to push the envelope," commented financial markets research and analysis firm IDEAglobal.com.

But the firm added that was "highly likely" that pressure on the peso would emerge again due to an export slump and little other sources of revenue.

During the weekend, Buenaventura met top officials of the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), the umbrella body for about 50 local and foreign commercial banks, to underline the seriousness of the crackdown against speculators.

The BAP said in a statement after the talks that the fines imposed on the nine banks were for "specific violations of documentary and prudential regulations" and "not for speculation on the peso as earlier reported."

"Observing however that certain regulatory provisions may have been the subject of misinterpretation, BAP officials sought clarification from the BSP on what practices are being allowed and disallowed," the statement said.

Alex Magno, head of Manila-based financial think tank Foundation for Economic Freedom Inc., said the banks could not escape suspicion.

"The objective of the prudential regulations is to diminish enthusiasm to play on currency. There are very strict rules on documenting dollar purchases to establish actual corporate demand for dollars," Magno told AFP.

"If you do not document properly there is reason to suspect that currencies are being hoarded," he added. ***AFP***

Erap projects benefited mostly rich, middle class

(From page A1)

academics.

The survey, assisted by Social Weather Stations, assessed the Lingap pro-poor program, based on people's experience with its five key aspects—health care, elementary education, water supply, housing and subsidized rice distribution.

Health care

According to the World Bank's findings on health care, the nonpoor use health facilities more than the poor do.

Urban residents visit health facilities more than their rural counterparts. A larger proportion of the better-off visit health facilities compared with the poor.

Public facilities are low in cost but inferior in quality. Those who cannot afford private services use health services provided by public facilities.

Primary government facilities appropriately provide preventive health services and treatment for minor illnesses/accidents. Public primary facilities, however, are noted for low quality.

Education

According to the survey, nine out of 10 school-age children are enrolled in elementary schools, and 88 percent of them go to public schools. Access to public schools has, in fact, improved.

At the same time, however, three-fourths of dropouts belong mostly to poor families in rural areas. Two out of five Filipino children out of school live in Mindanao.

The major cause for dropping out is poor health, followed by economic reasons.

The cost of education in public schools is cheap but inferior in quality compared with private schools.

Tuition in private schools is prohibitive, beyond the reach of the poor and most middle-income households. The rich, mostly from households in Metro Manila, mainly patronize private schools.

Public elementary education is supposed to be free, but families spend about 2 percent of total household expenditures on each child enrolled in a public elementary school.

Water, housing

Only three out of five Filipinos get water from wells, community piped systems or full waterworks.

The majority of poor people are excluded from piped waterworks systems.

Rural communities, particularly those in Mindanao, are underserved.

Low water supply hurts the poor. The poor pay more for water but get less. They spend on water between 2 and 9 percent of outlay for total household expenditures. The rich, more than the poor, are subsidized by the policy classifying sources of water.

Half of the respondents rate their housing as inadequate. In Mindanao and the Visayas, where poverty is more widespread than in Luzon, two-thirds of respondents regard their housing inadequate. Dissatisfaction with housing is higher in rural communities than in urban areas.

Land tenure is linked to satisfaction. Access to housing programs is very limited.

Out of the five basic services, housing assistance offers the lowest access. Three-fourths of those who get housing assistance obtain it from government. There's little private sector participation in providing housing.

About 95 percent of the beneficiaries of government housing assistance have been urban households, mostly in Metro Manila. The poor are excluded from housing associations.

Rice subsidy

Only 15 percent of respondents buy subsidized rice sold by the National Food Authority. Of those who do buy, 27 percent come from the poor, 16 percent from middle-income households, and 6 percent from the rich.

NFA rice is cheap but of inferior quality. The non-poor appear to buy NFA rice for domestic helpers and pets.

The non-poor benefit more from rice subsidy. While nearly as many rich and middle classes buy NFA rice as the poor, the non-poor enjoy a bigger subsidy, indicating that the government should target the poor.

More middle-income and rich households patronize the Erap stores than the poor. Among all regions, Mindanao has the highest proportion of households to whom NFA rice is available. It also has the least Erap stores in the country.

Lingap sought to reduce the number of poor Filipinos from 24 million in 1997 to 17 million by 2004.

The 100 poorest families in each of the 78 provinces and 83 cities were selected as beneficiaries of a package of assistance for food, medicine, subsidized rice and corn, rural waterworks, socialized housing, livelihood development and protective services for children and youth.

Initially, 16,100 families were identified to receive assistance.

Awareness

According to the survey, two-thirds of respondents have heard of the program, but rural residents are much less informed about it than urban residents. Awareness is lowest among the poor, compared with the middle-income group and the rich.

Two-thirds of the Lingap funds are disbursed with the approval of congressmen and senators, subjecting the program to pressures of political patronage.

The poor are also less connected to legislators. They have no political "pull."

The non-poor barangays benefit from the program. The number of poor households who indicated that their barangay is included for coverage is less than half of that of the middle income plus rich households. This reveals ineffective targeting.

The World Bank report card noted that at the beginning, most Filipinos believed that Lingap, for which the Estrada administration's 1999 budget allocated P2.5 billion, would have no impact on poverty reduction, with some predicting it would make things worse.

"After the first year of implementation, the bulk of the benefits . . . appear to be going to the non-poor," the report said.

"The mechanism for beneficiary selection seems to facilitate this leakage. To this end, the program requires major overhaul, or termination."

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(From page A1)

tional Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines is reportedly in the offing due to the sluggish effort to get the bandit group.

The axe, it was said, would fall on no less than Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

Reyes, however, dismissed the talk, telling critics, "Let's all shut up and get to work."

"I don't think it's time" for a revamp, he said. He added, however, that "we all serve at the pleasure of the President."

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday said Reyes and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez would not be affected by any Cabinet revamp. She did not mention Villanueva.

"I do not plan to replace those whom you mentioned," she said, when asked if it was true Reyes and Golez were on the way out as alleged in a "white paper."

The "white paper" claimed Reyes would be replaced by former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, while Golez was to be replaced by former Gen. Manuel Pepino.

"Well, you know, you never say never. But of course, they're always under continuing review," Ms Macapagal said, when asked who in her Cabinet she was planning to replace, if not Reyes and Golez.

Public frustration with the way the military has been handling the Abu Sayyaf problem reached a high point when Father Nacorda made his allegations.

The priest accused Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Army 1st Tabak Division commander, Col. Jovenal Narcise, Capt. Hubert Acierto, Capt. Nicolas Quemado and Maj. Eliseo Campued of taking money from the cornered Abu Sayyaf bandits to allow them to get away.

Their escape from the Lamitan hospital compound has prolonged the search for them and allowed the group to seize more hostages.

On Friday, three of the hostages were able to flee at the height of fighting between troops under Col. Hermogenes Esperon and one group of the Abu Sayyaf.

Stockholm Syndrome

The three, Vicente Perillo Sr. and his sons Vicente Jr. and Fernando, appear to have developed Stockholm Syndrome, however, after two months of captivity, the military said.

The syndrome describes the identification of a hostage with his captors, to the point of sympathizing with and growing close to his tormentors.

The three embraced Islam while in captivity and have openly declared that it "is the best religion."

Vicente Sr. said they opted to convert "so we would not be killed like two of our companions."

Esperon said Stockholm Syndrome could be cured."The usual thing to do is place them under a re-orientation program, then bring them to their old communities for actual exposure. With constant communication with their relatives and friends, it will be gone," Esperon said.

The Perillos admitted that they became "close" to their guard whom they identified only as Damdam.

"We were not allowed to carry guns, but we were assigned to cook, fetch water and carry their backpacks," Vicente Jr. said.

The Perillos escaped during a clash between government soldiers and the bandits in Barangay Makiri, Lantawan town, on Friday morning.

Three other hostages in their group, Faizal Benasing, Reynaldo Ariston and Ruben Valdesamor Jr., remain in captivity.

The freedom of the Perillos brings down to 18 the total number of hostages still with the Abu Sayyaf, including American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham.

Pakistan training

On Friday, 14 suspected members of the bandit group arrived in Manila from Pakistan where they were believed to have undergone extensive combat training.

Their arrival was monitored by military intelligence officers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The suspects were neither arrested nor held for questioning after they arrived on a Malaysian Airlines flight.

"They haven't committed any crime yet. We might be accused of human rights violations if we arrest them," one of the intelligence officers said.

Immigration officers, however, secretly took pictures of the suspects as they queued up at the immigration arrival counter at the Naia Terminal 1. *With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ping's cell phone traced to 'drug lord'

(From page A1)

friend named Kim Wong, but that he was "not the same" Kim Wong whom Corpus was accusing of being a drug lord.

Lacson said Kim Wong is a Chinese-Filipino restaurant owner. But from military and police intelligence reports on the suspected drug lord, the senator and Corpus appeared to be talking about the same person, since the subject of the intelligence information is also reportedly a businessman with restaurants in Manila.

In an earlier reply to a text message asking him about Corpus' latest allegation, Lacson texed back: "Can he not think of a more sensible issue, say, communism? He (needs) a psychiatrist."

In the past few days, Lacson has tried to dismiss the allegations of Corpus, a one-time communist rebel, as ideologically motivated.

According to Corpus, Kim is suspected of leading a Chinese crime ring known as the "14-K" group, and is on the Isafp's and the PNP's "watch list."

In previous interviews, however, Lacson has said that Kim Wong is a legitimate businessman who became one of the targets of a smear job by police intelligence officials because he donated thousands of posters and stickers to Lacson's senatorial campaign.

Ping to file bill

Lacson also responded to another text message asking whether he would sign a waiver of his rights under bank secrecy laws. Corpus has drafted the waiver, which would allow the Isafp full access to records of the senator's alleged foreign accounts, which Corpus claims contain at least $211 million.

Texting back, Lacson replied: "Tomorrow I (am) filing a Senate bill (that will) exempt (government officials), elected (and) appointed, from (the) provisions of (the) bank secrecy law" to find out who is telling the truth.

"Re his waiver, (Corpus should) admit first that he invented (the account numbers I allegedly own. Then I will) seriously consider signing," he added.

Campaign donor

Military and police intelligence files claim that "Kim and Lacson's Chinese 14-K crime group is one of the largest and (most) well-organized networks in the importation and distribution of drugs here and abroad, particularly in Hong Kong, Taiwan and the US mainland."

The files brand Kim as "more influential than a drug lord because he is (allegedly) a shipper of drugs." A "shipper" imports and exports illegal drugs.

According to Isafp officers, the 14-K crime group has a "tie-up" with the Yakuza, the Japanese international crime ring.

Order of battle

Corpus said intelligence officers were in the process of "validating" information to use as basis for including the businessman in an "order of battle" list as a priority intelligence target.

"Kim is on the watch list and we want their (he and his associates' alleged) drug trafficking stopped," Corpus said.

Now that Ms Macapagal has given the Isafp a mandate to work jointly with the PNP and other intelligence agencies in fighting crime, the exchange of intelligence information with their counterparts in the police and the National Bureau of Investigation has "begun to work effectively," according to Corpus.

According to the intelligence files, Kim was suspected of being one of several businessmen who allegedly donated a total of P500 million for a "power-grab kitty," a fund to support the overthrow of President Macapagal.

Lacson has denied this in past interviews.

The INQUIRER was told, however, that Kim's dossier at the Isafp included a report of his alleged participation in the failed attempt by supporters of former President Joseph Estrada to grab power in late April to early May.

Corpus has said the "bulk" of Lacson's deposits "came from illegal drugs."

A joint military and police intelligence team that went to San Francisco to investigate Lacson in June told US Customs Service agents that Lacson was allegedly involved in drug trafficking and that the Philippines was used as a transshipment point for narcotics.

'Big John' bids empire goodbye

(From page A1)

brother, James, and son Lance.

When Gokongwei formally steps down as chairman of JG Summit Holdings at the end of the year, James will succeed him as chair while Lance will take his uncle's place as president.

"I'll see whether they can do it. But I think they can do it," Mr. John said.

On that rainy Saturday evening, Pedro Gil Avenue in Manila played host to a bumper-to-bumper convoy of expensive cars on their way to the Manila Midtown Hotel.

Security was tight at the entrance to the grand ballroom, where a member of the Presidential Security Group checked all the guests' bags. Even Mr. John's family and closest friends were no exception.

In the reception area, there was a steady buzz of Chinese chatter, mostly about this or that business or questions about Mr. John's whereabouts.

Lance Gokongwei, Mr. John's only son, bustled about, taking care of last-minute arrangements and additions to the guest list.

Lance's wife of eight months, Jay, was also busy running around the reception area greeting guests, her cheerfulness a welcome contrast to the gloomy weather outside.

Who's who

The rain had caused such heavy traffic that most of the guests started arriving at 8:20 p.m., postponing the program, which had been scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

By then, the ballroom was already more than half-full of guests, dressed mostly in red and bright pink, conversing in Mr. John's native Fookien.

The ballroom itself was decorated in red, from the stage backdrop to the table napkins. The waiters were wearing red vests as well.

The guest list read like a "who's who" directory of Philippine business and politics: tycoons Henry Sy and Lucio Tan, and Senators Franklin Drilon, Loren Legarda, Francis Pangilinan, Ralph Recto, Joker Arroyo and Edgardo Angara.

Cabinet secretaries Joey Lina of the interior and Raul Roco of education were also there to greet the birthday boy.

By 8:40, the guest of honor had arrived, and the program finally started. President Macapagal-Arroyo was escorted into the ballroom by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, Mr. John and members of the Gokongwei family.

Surprise, surprise

Lance said Mr. John threw an impromptu birthday party for himself at the JG Summit office because he thought nobody else would.

Mr. John narrated how he and his wife Elizabeth went to see a movie Saturday morning, leaving four tables set at home for a birthday dinner with the family and some close friends.

"She left me half an hour earlier saying she had to prepare the house for the family guests," he said.

But when evening came, he learned that his family had prepared not four, but 40 tables with 12 place settings each, for his 75th birthday.

In a speech during the program, daughter Robina Gokogwei-Pe said: "Mr. John must be shivering right now at what I'm going to say."

She told the crowd that her father always wanted his children to excel in other fields apart from business.

"He forced all of us to take piano lessons . . . but we all inherited his 'musical talent,'" she joked.

Rise

Mr. John's strong personality came from becoming head of the family early in life. His father died when he was only 13 years old, and being the eldest made him the family's breadwinner.

Although the family had been affluent, the young John found himself suddenly left with a mother and five siblings to support.

His business career started with selling goods while riding a bicycle. He later became a *viajero*—purchasing goods in Cebu and selling them in Manila and vice versa.

His rise in business took place during the post-World War II years, when mostly everyone was starting from scratch and the playing field was level.

He entered manufacturing in 1957 and the realm of branded products in 1961. He also engaged in a David-and-Goliath battle with San Miguel Corp. for a seat on the SMC board in the '70s.

His efforts proved futile, but Mr. John was not disheartened. JG Summit was born more than a decade after that; and the rest, as they say, is history.

"He has transformed the family business into a family of businesses with 26,000 employees, with Southeast Asian and Greater China operations," Johnson said.

Happiest moment

But asked what the happiest moment of his life was, Mr. John answered: "When Lance was born."

"I'm very happy with my wife and six children, Lance and the five girls," he said in his birthday speech.

Robina said: "I remember in 1994, on his 68th birthday, he asked me, 'Where is your honeymoon?' I told him it was going to be in a $75-a-night room in Venice. He pulled $5,000 out of his pocket, gave it to me and said, 'I gained this in the Bangkok stock market. You need a bigger room with a bigger bed to have a baby.'"

At 75, Mr. John "has two major frustrations in life: his weight and his lack of grandchildren," according to his brother, Johnson.

He added that Mr. John has been pressuring Lance and Jay to produce a John Gokongwei III.

Robina also said Mr. John once offered a car to the first child who would give him a grandchild.

"He sounded a bit desperate. He's frustrated that he has only two grandchildren," she said.

Rocking chair

Mr. John told his successors to continue what he has so painstakingly put together over the years—JG Summit Petrochemical Corp., Robinsons Land Corp., Litton Mills Inc., Universal Robina Corp., Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc., Cebu Pacific Air, Robinsons Savings Bank and the Robinson's chain of retail stores.

"I hope my work will continue for the good of the company and of the country. We need to show that Filipinos can also compete," he said.

His upcoming retirement does not signal the end of all of Mr. John's control of his business empire.

"Johnson and I will still be members of the executive committee," he said.

Not being chairman means he does not have to come to the office on a daily basis. "This gives me enough time to travel and enjoy myself," he said.

He said he would also like to focus more on his philanthropic endeavors.

JG Summit has the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation, which provides educational opportunities all over the Philippines.

It was founded more than two years ago and is now the second largest shareholder of JG Summit, next only to Mr. John himself.

The Gokongwei Brothers Foundation gave him a rocking chair as a gift.

"When I saw it, I knew they wanted me to retire," he said with a laugh.

So he did.

Massive . . .

(From page A1)

overwhelmingly vote against the city's inclusion in the ARMM.

Koronadal City Mayor Fernando Miguel said that joining the ARMM would not ensure progress for his city. "What is it to us?" he asked.

Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu said he wanted the development of his province "to continue under the present state of governance."

Mangudadatu said the ARMM had been slow in its development efforts despite its big annual budget.

Piñol voiced out similar sentiments. "This is not a Christian-Muslim issue. The main reason people will not be enticed to join is that they have not seen changes (in the ARMM)," he said.

Misuari

Christian leaders said Misuari had failed to deliver on his promises to develop the ARMM.

Even so, some Muslims led by Misuari have also threatened to boycott the plebiscite amid a power struggle within the Moro National Liberation Front that forged a peace pact with Manila in 1996. The accord led to the establishment of the ARMM.

A group of MNLF leaders who have accused Misuari of alleged mismanagement recently ousted him as MNLF chair and replaced him with an executive council led by Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema.

Malacañang also appointed Sema head of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, replacing Misuari.

Misuari denied the charges, denounced his ouster as provoked by Manila and urged followers to stay away from Tuesday's plebiscite.

Malacañang, however, urged Muslims and Christians alike in Mindanao to go out and vote.

"It is unfortunate that Governor Misuari has taken that position considering that this is another opportunity for everyone to give full meaning to the autonomy provisions in the Constitution for Muslim Mindanao," said Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco.

"This is also part of the government's commitment under the peace accord with the MNLF. This is one big step for peace and development which every responsible leader and citizen in Mindanao should not miss," Capco added.

Comelec

The Commission on Elections said the plebiscite was expected to be peaceful and orderly.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said that the poll body was expecting 60-70 percent of the 4,906,848 registered voters to take part in the plebiscite.

The Comelec has put up 27,421 precincts in 6,804 barangays.

A petition for a temporary restraining order against the Aug. 14 plebiscite is pending in the Supreme Court.

Mayor Sema said he favored the expansion of the ARMM but added he would allow his constituents to vote according to their conscience.

"In the case of the ARMM, slow economic and infrastructure development hinges on the kind of leadership and officials running it," he said. *With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Reuters*

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ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	0400	0510	P2,608	P2,049	
	5J - 560	Daily	0700	0810	P2,608	P2,309	*P1,999*
	5J - 562	Daily	0900	1010			
	5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210			
	5J - 566	Daily	1300	1410			
	5J - 568	Daily	1500	1610			
	5J - 570	Daily	1700	1810			
	5J - 572	Daily	1900	2010			
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	0800	0850	P2,339	P2,039	*P1,799*
	5J - 597	M/W/F	1420	1510			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	M/W/Th/Sat	0905	1000	P2,388	P2,089	*P1,799*
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	1725	1800	P1,799	P1,599	*P1,499*
BACOLOD	5J - 126	Mon to Sat	0810	0840	P1,599	P1,399	*P1,299*

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	0720	0900	P3,307	P2,919	*P2,399*
	5J - 964	Daily	1240	1420			
	5J - 966	Daily	1600	1740			
	5J - 968	Daily	1820	2000			
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	0930	1020	P2,339	P2,039	*P1,799*
	5J - 598	M/W/F	1550	1640			
ILOILO	5J - 598/164*	M/W/F	1550	1800	P3,295	P2,839	*P2,549*
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	T/F/Sun	0910	1010	P2,388	P2,089	*P1,799*

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	0715	0840	P3,295	P2,919	*P2,399*
	5J - 384	Daily	1135	1300			

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	0800	0910	P2,718	P2,419	*P1,999*
	5J - 656	Daily	1400	1510			
	5J - 658	M/T/Th/Sat	1550	1700			

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 456	Daily	1135	1235	P2,498	P2,199	*P1,949*
	5J - 458	Daily	1650	1750			
	5J - 462	Daily	1900	2000			
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	0645	0720	P1,799	P1,599	*P1,499*
DAVAO	5J - 161/593*	Daily	0645	0850	P3,295	P2,839	*P2,549*

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 474	Mon to Sat	0930	1030	P2,498	P2,199	*P1,949*
	5J - 476	Daily	1150	1250			
	5J - 478	W/F/Sun	1515	1615			
	5J - 480	Daily	1820	1920			
CEBU	5J - 125	Mon to Sat	0700	0730	P1,599	P1,399	*P1,299*

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	1050	1220	P3,295	P2,639	*P2,399*
	5J - 432/562*	M/W/Th/Sat	0730	1010			
CEBU	5J - 432	M/W/Th/Sat	0730	0825	P2,388	P2,089	*P1,799*
DAVAO	5J - 394	T/FSun	0730	0830	P2,388	P2,089	*P1,799*

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	0710	0810	P2,279	P1,979	*P1,799*

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	1530	1640	P2,608	P2,309	*P1,999*

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	1030	1120	P2,608	P2,309	*P1,999*

NOTES:
- **All fares do not include government tax and are subject to government approval.**
- **Child's fare and other regular discounts are applicable against Normal Fares only.**

Schedule is effective 16 July 2001 until further notice.

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Rafter dispatches Hewitt

MASON, Ohio—Patrick Rafter beat Lleyton Hewitt 6-4, 6-3 in an all-Australian semifinal Saturday at the Tennis Masters Series-Cincinnati. Rafter, 28, and Hewitt, 20, had faced off only twice before, both in 1999, and Hewitt had won both matches. This time, Hewitt could not handle Rafter's pressure tactics and superior shot placement. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Seles vs Davenport for crown

LOS ANGELES—Monica Seles beat Martina Hingis in three sets here Saturday, reaching the final of the $565,000 estyle.com Classic hardcourt tournament at the world number one's expense for the second week in a row. Seles, the sixth seed, defeated the top-seeded Swiss 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 to advance to a clash with second seed Lindsay Davenport, a 6-1, 6-2 winner over France's Nathalie Tauziat. *AFP*

PBA FINALS

Red Bull takes opener

GAME WEDNESDAY *(Philsports)*
7:15 p.m. – SMB vs Red Bull

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ANTONIO Lang and Davon Harp hit three of their seven free throws in the final minute as Batang Red Bull pulled off a thrilling 80-78 victory over San Miguel Beer last night in Game 1 of the PBA Commissioner's Cup finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

The charities came off a dramatic endgame where the Thunder climbed from five points down (78-73) after allowing the Beermen to dominate most of the second half.

Mick Pennisi touched off the windup with a layup before Lang split his free throws that sent Nic Belasco to the bench for six fouls. And in between San Miguel's botched offensive thrusts, Lang again made a split off a Danny Ildefonso foul as SMB nursed a 78-77 lead with 48 seconds left.

After Danny Seigle missed a jumper in the ensuing play, Lang hit an undergoal stab from a Junthy Valenzuela pass and drew Nate Johnson's sixth foul with 5.1 seconds left.

Lang flubbed his bonus shot but Harp got the rebound, causing Olsen Racela to foul him with 3.5 seconds left and Red Bull holding a 79-78 lead. Harp made only his first. San Miguel called a timeout before Seigle sealed SMB's fate by missing on a drive as time expired.

The Thunder will gun for a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series on Wednesday at the Philsports.

Bothered by the pesky defense of Harp, Ildefonso was held scoreless in the first two quarters, leaving the Beermen with no other choice but to put Seigle at the post.

But that didn't work either because Red Bull refused to apply double-team and instead used its tall frontline (with Pennisi on Seigle, Lang on Johnson and Harp on Ildefonso) to repel San Miguel's half-court game.

That caused San Miguel to lose control of the game, letting Red Bull to dictate the rhythm and then trail for most part of the first half.

Earlier, Alaska Milk recovered from a turbulent fourth quarter to beat Purefoods, 96-89, and salvage third place honors.

Scores:

RED BULL 80—Lang 32, Torion 16, Harp 9, Tugade 6, Pennisi 4, Raymundo 4, Valenzuela 3, Agustin 2, Briones 2, Miller 2, Mendoza 0.

SAN MIGUEL 78—Johnson 26, Seigle 21, Ildefonso 11, Peña 8, Racela 6, Victoria 2, Belasco 2, Abuda 2, Lago 0.

Quarters: 24-18; 45-45; 55-65; 80-78.

NCAA TODAY

(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
12nn—Mapua vs PCU (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—Letran vs Perpetual (jrs/srs)

US regains Under-21 title

SAITAMA, Japan—The United States defeated Croatia 89-80 in the world basketball under-21 championships Sunday to regain the title they won in the inaugural event in 1993.

Less than a minute into the final, the Americans were 0-6 down and they struggled to close the gap throughout the first half, which ended at 42-47. *AFP*

SEAG inquiry slated

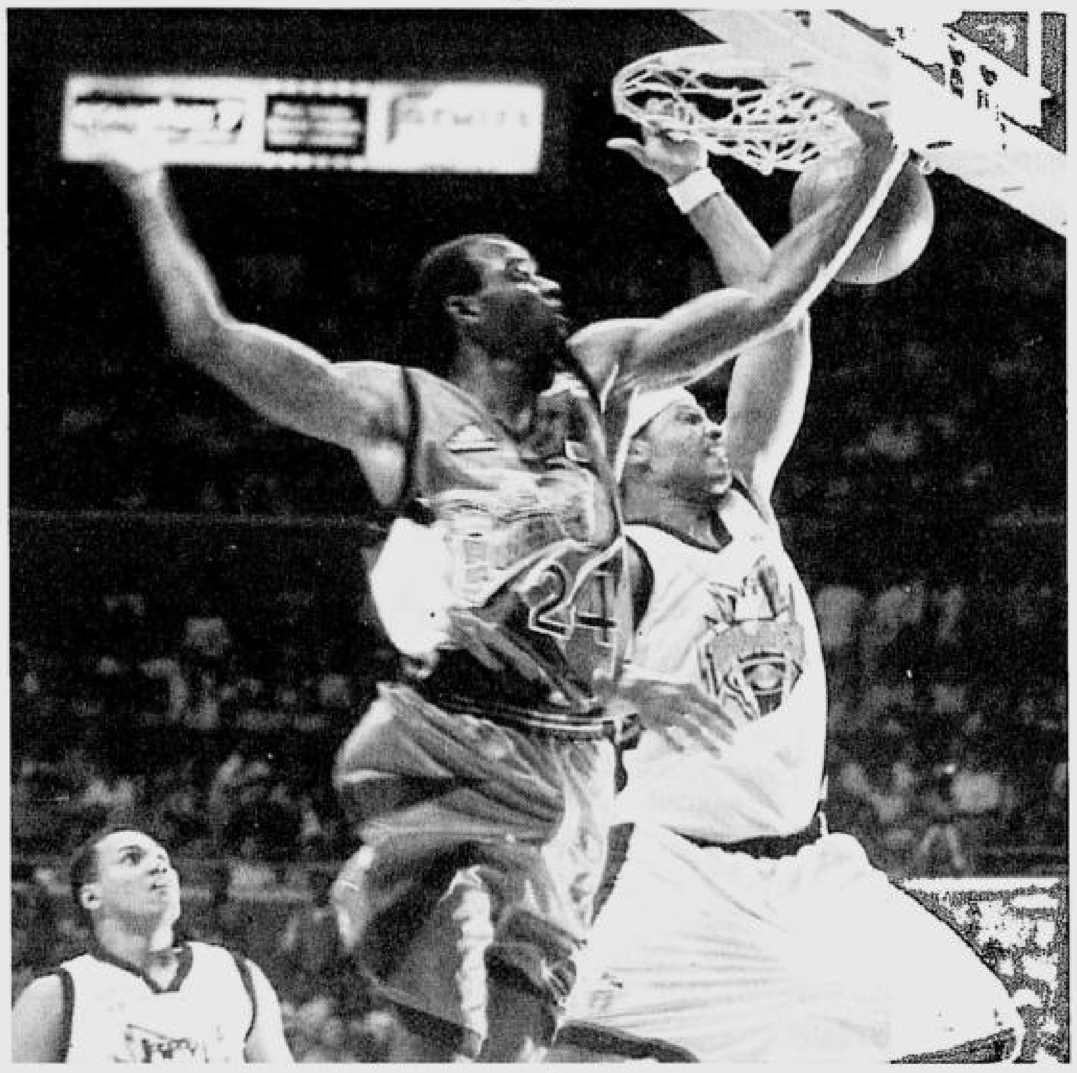
A CONGRESSIONAL inquiry on the review for the preparation and participation of the Philippine delegation to the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games will be held Aug. 20.

Rep. Monico Puentevella of Bacolod City said the hearing would delve primarily on how the officials of the 321-strong national team are going to spend the money in the biennial conclave set on Sept. 9-17.

"We want to know how much money was given to each national sports association and how they are going to use it," said Puentevella, a former commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission.

Right after the games, he added, the House Committee on Youth and Sports would ask the Philippine Olympic Committee for a copy of the report with respect to the performance of athletes.

June Navarro



RED Bull's Davon Harp (right) dunks against San Miguel Beer's Nate Johnson. Looking on is Willie Miller, also of Red Bull.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

NU trips Adamson in OT

By Lorenzo Manguiat

NATIONAL University proved steadier down the stretch as it hacked out an 84-81 overtime victory over Adamson University yesterday in the 64thUAAP basketball tournament at the Ateneo gym.

Bryan Tolentino scored five of the Bulldogs' final six points in the extension to give NU its fourth victory in seven outings after the first round.

Tolentino converted a follow-up shot and a bonus free throw off Adamson's Reinell Catabay with 57.5 seconds remaining to move NU ahead at 81-78. The Bulldog forward then made a layup with 18.1 ticks left to extend the lead to five before guard Froilan Baguion finalized the count with a charity split.

It was another sorry loss for the Falcons as they remained winless for the season. Moreover, Adamson extended its losing streak to 27 games dating back to August 19, 1999.

In the other game, Patrick Madarang exploded for 24 points as the University of the Philippines snapped its five game losing skid with a 76-68 triumph over the University of the East. UP improved to 2-5, while UE dropped to 3-4.

Scores:

NU 84—Napa 16, Baguion 14, Tolentino 12, Cayabyab 11, Grijaldo 10, De Castro 6, Manabat 4, Neo 4, Mendoza 4, Urbano 3, Cajayon 0, Delos Santos 0

ADAMSON 81—Abadia 26, Hale 17, Rolan 11, Ragupa 7, Mangulabnan 7, Yong 4, Ferrer 3, Mamaclay 2, Gandarosa 2, Catabay 0

Quarters: 19-16; 33-31; 52-46, 71-71, 84-81.

Negros makes it; Batangas halts Andok's

By Roy Luarca

THE NEGROS Slashers repulsed the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems' fiery rally in the homestretch to tally a 101-90 victory last night and barge into the finals of the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the Cebu City Coliseum.

With the Gems threatening at 71-74, the Slashers answered with an eight-point cluster, capped by a Blitz 3 dunk by Reynel Hugnatan, en route to their second straight win that aborted the best-of-three semifinal series.

The Slashers followed up their 102-91 conquest of the Gems in Bacolod City to sweep the Gems. Now, they would have to wait for whomever between the LBC Batangas Blades and the Andok's San Juan Knights will be their opponents in the best-of-five finals.

A free-for-all nearly ensued with 4 minutes and 50 seconds left in the second quarter when Negros' Leo Bat-og punched Cebu's Willy Mejia, who elbowed him on a rebound play, on the chin. Both benches rushed to the court and only the intervention of cooler heads prevented the incident from getting out of hand. Bat-og and Mejia were ejected from the court.

Earlier, the Blades watched the Knights miss crucial shots in the homestretch to salvage a 77-69 victory yesterday and level their Metropolitan Basketball Association semifinal series at the San Juan Gym.

The Knights trimmed a 17-point deficit to just five, 72-67, but were unable to cash in on their next five offensive tries as the Blades recovered from their Game One loss (94-82) to force a sudden death on Wednesday.

Jeffrey Sanders sealed the outcome with two freethrows that shoved Batangas ahead, 74-67, with only 51 seconds to go.

Alex Compton, atoning for his lethargic showing in Game One, fired all of his 20 points in the first half as the Blades stormed ahead, 42-30, never to look back.

Scores:

LBC BATANGAS 77—Compton 20, Laure 12, Adducul 11, Sanders 11, Rivera 11, Serrano 4, Martin 4, Espinosa 2, Antonio 2, Corbin 0.

ANDOK'S SAN JUAN 69—Calaguio 27, Dacla 15, Capobres 8, Reavis 7, O. Rodriguez 4, Castillo 2, Victolero 2, Rodriguez 2, Otto 2, Newton 0, Aying 0.

Quarters:25-11, 42-30, 61-50, 77-69.

Kobe visits Beijing

BEIJING—Kobe Bryant says playing basketball at the Great Wall of China was one of the most memorable events of his life.

"It's an experience that's very difficult to capture in words," the Los Angeles Lakers guard said Sunday in Beijing, where he is visiting and meeting young basketball players at the invitation of an international athletic shoe and supply company.

The 22-year-old Bryant, whom Chinese fans call "ke bi," played with kids in a Great Wall basketball clinic Saturday north of Beijing. He was to join more young players in a second clinic Sunday afternoon. *AP*

Soul-searching

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

MOST coaches and those good-for-nothing officials of the National Sports Associations, should ask God to help them mend their ways because they are the reasons why sports in this country is in a very sad situation.

These coaches should do some soul-searching instead of making ambitious and exaggerated predictions like when they said recently that the Philippines could win 80, repeat 80, gold medals in this year's Southeast Asian Game sin Kuala Lumpur! To my mind they are only fooling us and making *palusot* to justify their junket to Malaysia at the expense of the government.

Of course, the projection was doubted outright by the SEA games Task Force, but since it came from the coaches themselves the Task Force did not question the projection. On the other hand, the Task Force jointly chaired by commissioner Richie Garcia of the Philippine Sports Commission and Steve Hontiveros of the Philippine Olympic Committee made its own conservative projection, predicting a modest harvest of 40 gold medals in this year's SEA Games, 20 more than what the Philippines won in Brunei two years ago.

"We're looking at a respectable performance in Kuala Lumpur," said PSC Chair Carlos "Butch" Tuason. "The public is now sensitive and the people are more conscious about the gold medals we would be bringing home since government money is involved."

Tuason added they have kept a strict criteria so this is a better team, perhaps better than the one we sent to Brunei where the Filipinos landed a dismal fifth. "As far as the PSC is concerned, we did everything to help the NSAs. But the training is not up to us. It's up to them. There should be no finger pointing this time. Simple as that."

I think the athletes most likely to hog the spotlight in Kuala Lumpur will come from athletics and boxing, two of the best organized, well-exposed and well-trained teams in the 468-strong delegation. Also to reckon with are the entries from taekwondo, billiards and snooker, gymnastics, shooting, swimming, fencing, golf, wushu, karatedo, judo, rowing, weightlifting and basketball, if the cage team finally makes the KL trip.

Dilag reappointed race commissioner

DILAG

SPORTSMAN-businessman Jimmy Dilag has been reappointed as commissioner of the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom).

The 50-year-old former pelotari first served the racing body in the early '90s during Nicky Jacinto's term as chairman.

"I'm glad to be back in horse racing and I thank President Macapagal-Arroyo for giving me another chance to serve in the industry," said Dilag, who was recently sworn in by deputy executive secretary Ernesto Martinez.

Prior to his reappointment, Dilag served as jai-alai *intendente* (handicapper), giving the game of a thousand thrills and its pelotaris a clean, wholesome image among its fans.

"Of course, we won't be able to achieve that kind of acknowledgment for jai-alai without the support given us by Pagcor chairman Ephraim Genuino," said Dilag.

The affable Dilag, also an avid golfer, earned the monicker "Action Man" while serving alongside Jacinto and fellow commissioner Joey Loberiza because of his no-nonsense drive in acting swiftly on various Philracom programs.

"I hope I can be of help again to the *bayang kareristas*," added Dilag, who likewsie gained fame as a horseowner through gallopers like Impressive Jim, Born to Race and Born to Love.

Dilag's term will expire on Nov. 5, 2003. He was reappointed to replace Eduardo Galang.

RP junior golfers shine

TEAM Philippines completed a stirring performance in the Angela Leong China Junior Open in Jiangmen, China yesterday by bagging the team championship aside from taking one individual title and two runner-up trophies.

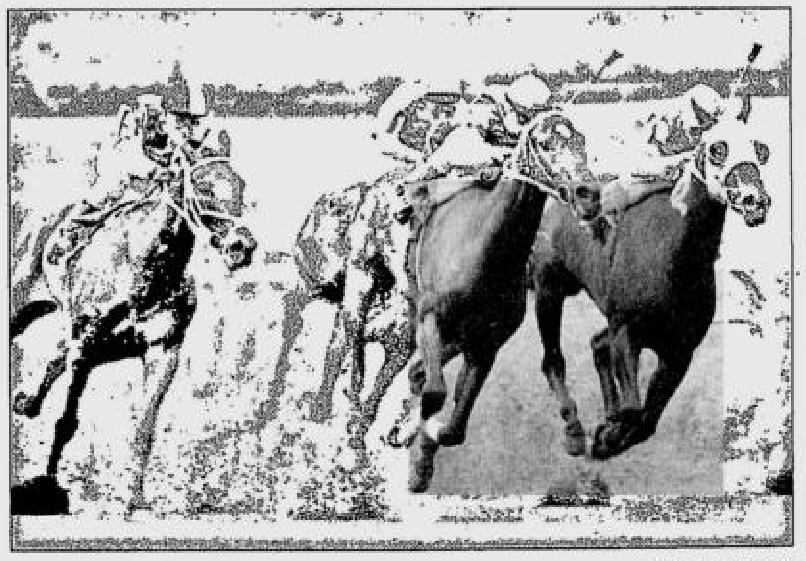
The Philippine trio of Michael Bibat, Carl Santos-Ocampo and Katrina Gonzales routed their opponents in team play, finishing 12 strokes ahead of Shengzen GA with those from Malaysia, Hong Kong and India even farther adrift.

Xandrea Dizon took a seven-stroke lead in the first round before rampaging to a record 18-stroke victory in the girls' 13-14 years division. Santos-Ocampo and Bibat also placed second in their respective divisions.

The team was sent to China by the NGAP and the Philippine Golf Foundation.

Meanwhile, Dorothy Delasin fired a 68 but still trailed by nine strokes going to the final round of the Wendy's Championship for Children in Ohio. Delasin was tied for 16th with her 138 total, far off Wendy Ward's 62-127.

In Kuala Lumpur, Mars Pucay placed 10th in the Volvo Masters of Malaysia after a 68. *Jong Arcano*



VALHANDUMON

CONFETTI STAKES

Indy's Quest (left), with Jeffril Zarate aboard, makes a big run from the outside en route to a rousing win in the Confetti Stakes, first leg of the 2001 Juvenile Fillies Championship race, yesterday at the Santa Ana Park. Tigra (middle) placed second, while Art of Rose (1) and D Raven (3) wound up third and fourth, respectively. Indy's Quest (Rindo Indy-Conquistador Quest) bagged P240,000 for the P/T Stable and Farm.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Golfglobe 2001 at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

PGA Buick Open - Final Round at 2 p.m. (r – 10 p.m.) on Star Sports

LPGA Wendy's Championship for Children, Final Round at 6 p.m. (r) on ESPN

TENNIS: WTA Acura Classic, Finals at 10:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

ATP Tennis Show at 12:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Masters Series (Cincinnati), Men's Final at 8:30 p.m. on ESPN

BASKETBALL: 21st ABC Championship for Men 2001, Second Round at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

WNBA at 9:30 p.m. on IBC 13

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Pre-Season - Minnesota Vikings vs New Orleans Saints at midnight (r) on ESPN

BASEBALL: Sunday Night Baseball at 8 a.m. on ESPN

VOLLEYBALL: Italy Open, Men's 3rd Place and Final at 8 a.m. (r – midnight) on Star Sports

SOCCER: 2001 Korean Football League at 12 noon on Star Sports

SOFTBALL: 2001 Women's Pro Softball League at 1:30 p.m. on ESPN

GDAP slates biggest Golf Show at SM

THE WORLD'S biggest golf traders will show off their latest equipment, apparel, technology and many more when the sixth edition of the Philippine International Golf Show unfurls on Oct. 5-7 at SM MegaMall in Mandaluyong.

The Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP) which organizes the annual show yesterday announced that the expected entry of the United States Commercial Service and the full cooperation of the Department of Tourism will make it the grandest in recent years.

Preparations for one of Asia's biggest shows are already in full swing with GDAP's roster of membership committed to fill up the sprawling exhibition hall and treat visitors to product launches, educational seminars and promotional gimmicks.

"We'll make sure that each visit at the show site will be worth it and there will be a lot of activities to look forward to," said GDAP president Raymund Atendido.

Karina Herrera, the exhibit chair, bared that the strong sponsorship response is a good sign for the event.

"We've always believed that the show produces results for companies, the reason why we get a long list of exhibitors," said Herrera.

Hererra said that among early sponsors are Jack Nicklaus apparel, Hawaiian Tropic, Planet Sports, Srixon, Casino Filipino, Berocca, Milo Enervon Prime, Lipton Ice Tea, Taytan International and Earthinshape.com.

Celebrity appearances have highlighted each show. In 1999, Dorothy Joy Delasin, now a full-fledged star in the LPGA, had local golfers packing the hall when she made a special visit right after winning the US Women's Amateur.

The initial list of exhibitors already includes 30 companies.

For inquiries, contact Tradex Specialist at 438-1848, 421-0779 and 438-7821 or visit the official website of the event which was first launched in 1996 at www.philippineinternationalgolfshow.com.

MGC entries sparkle

SOUTHWOODS and Alabang booked their second straight wins even as Manila Golf bounced back with a rousing victory in Week 3 of the 2001 Federation League elims in various exclusive courses.

With Angelo Que and Jerome Delariarte keeping their fiery forms, Southwoods trashed a hapless Eastridge, 3-1, in big follow-up to its conquest of Sta. Elena last week.

Alabang kept pace with Southwoods and idle Mt. Malarayat with a surprise 3-1 demolition of Canlubang.

Delariarte-Jojo Lee (scramble), Marty Ilagan/Butch Brodett (aggregate) and Que-Stephen Liao won the points for Southwoods while Alabang rode on wins by Francis Jimenez-Rene Garovillo, Seve Roxas Chua-Pete Cervantes and Caloy Coscolluela-Vic Guzman.

Coming off a sorry loss to Alabang in its debut, Manila Golf leveled its slate to 1-1 with an impressive 4-0 win over Valley.

Providing the key wins for Manila Golf were the tandems of Alex Prieto-Manoling Chan, Jojo Guingona-Arsenic Laurel, J.P. Reyes-Joey Yujuico and Philip Romualdez-Richie Garcia.

Other matches saw former champion Riviera down Sta. Elena while Forest Hills turned back Tagaytay Highlands via similar 3-1 decisions.

Southwoods and Malarayat gun for No. 3 when they play Riviera and Mimosa, respectively, this weekend.

SPORTSWATCH

Tablenet meet up

A TOTAL of P70,000 in cash and other prizes will be at stake in the Makati Table Tennis Classic on Sept. 1-2 at the Makati Coliseum. The event, which is the first of a series of year-round tournaments by the Philippine Table Tennis Development Union, is expected to attract an estimated 400 participants from all over the country. Jejomar "Erwin" Binay Jr., PTTDU president, said that among those seeing action are several contingents from Davao and Bacolod cities. The national men's and women's teams through head coach Noel Gonzalez likewise gave the assurance that they will make the event as their last tune-up matches before heading for the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. Entry forms are available at the PTTDU office at the 3rd floor of the Makati Youth Center Bldg. at 1150 J.P. Rizal St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City. Deadline for the submission of entries is on Aug. 27. For more information, please call 895-8247 or 895-8248 local 21.

Perry sets records

GRAND BLANC, Michigan—Kenny Perry shot his second straight 8-under-par 64 on Saturday to set three Buick Open records and take a five-stroke lead after the third round. Perry had a 22-under 194 total to break the tournament's 54-hole record. He also tied the tournament nine-hole record for the second straight day with a 29 on the back nine, and tied the best 36 holes played in the 43 years of the event. Ireland's Padraig Harrington (65) and Jim Furyk (66) are at 199. Justin Leonard tied the third-round tournament record with a 63 to join Chris DiMarco (65) and Bob Tway (67) at 200. Tom Pernice Jr. (66) and Brian Wilson (64) are seven strokes behind. Robert Wrenn set the previous 54-hole record in 1987 en route to a record 26-under 262. Perry needs a 67 Sunday to break another record and win his first tournament since 1995. *AP*

Verde Island tilt

THE VERDE Island Resort fish ID competition will be held on Aug. 18-19 and 25-26. Entry fee is P3,500 inclusive of room with air-con, four meals and four dives. The event is sponsored by Scuba World and aired on Unlimited Diving every Friday (11-11:30 p.m.) over NBN Channel 4. For registration, call 920-8505 or cell no. 0917-9368895. Entries get a chance to be featured on TV Diving and win resort accommodations.

Whitaker charged

VIRGINIA BEACH, Virginia—Former boxing champion Pernell Whitaker was on his way to jail Friday for two traffic convictions when officers searching his belongings found cocaine, according to the Virginia Beach sheriff's office. Whitaker, 37, was charged with possession of a controlled substance. *AP*

Marion runs into history

JONES

EDMONTON, Alberta—Marion Jones ran and Ivan Pedroso jumped into history, but Gabriela Szabo failed to join them, beaten by rival Olga Yegorova in the grudge race of the World Championships.

Yegorova pulled away on the final lap to easily win the 5,000 meters Saturday while Szabo faded to finish eighth, missing out on a third straight gold to go with the 1,500 title she claimed Tuesday.

The confrontation lacked the drama that preceded it, when Szabo of Romania threatened to boycott the race due to drug suspicions about Yegorova. Despite a clean drug test this week, Yegorova was booed by the crowd of 47,312 before and after her victory.

Bitter in defeat, Szabo continued to infer that Russia's Yegorova cheated.

Jones beamed her famous smile after anchoring the U.S. 4x100 relay team to victory over Germany to win her fifth world championship gold medal, tying compatriot Gail Devers as the winningest woman in championship history.

It wasn't everything she wanted, after losing the 100 final before winning the 200.

Devers could have added a sixth title but failed to win the 100 hurdles for the fourth time in a row, edged by fellow American Anjanette Kirkland.

Where Devers failed, Pedroso of Cuba succeeded. Despite a lackluster year, the Olympic champion outjumped all competition when it counted to win his fourth world title in a row. He also has four indoor titles.

Pedroso finished with 8.40 meters, by far his best jump of the season and 16 centimeters ahead of Savante Stringfellow of the United States.

Also assuring his status as an all-time great was Poland's Robert Korzeniowski, who added the world title to his Olympic gold in the 50-kilometer walk. It was the second time he achieved that double. *AP*

Mandaluyong 7-stag derby on Aug. 28, 30

MEDIUM-scale cockers who are interested to join the "RLB Annual 7-Stag Derby" to be held on Aug. 28 and 30 may bring their stags for screening in Mandaluyong Coliseum on Aug. 19 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Weight limits are from 1.7 kg to 2.2 kg Submission of weights is strictly one day before, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For other inquiries, please contact Mandaluyong Coliseum at 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341 (new number).

According to derby host Mr. Richard Bates, stags banded by Pagba, Ucap, Migba, NGBA and GF-BAN are accepted to join, but subject to legbanding and age classification. Individual particpants who prefer farm-to-farm screening may contact Mr. Bates at 0916-3156991 (cellphone), (046)-4140750 (Cavite) or 824-0237 (Manila). Entry fee is P25,000 and minimum bet is P11,000. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

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BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	PCT	GB
East				
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Boston	64	51	.557	4
Toronto	55	62	.470	14
Baltimore	49	68	.419	20
Tampa Bay	40	77	.342	29
Central				
Minnesota	64	52	.552	—
Cleveland	64	52	.552	—
CHI White Sox	57	58	.496	6 1/2
Detroit	48	67	.417	15 1/2
Kansas City	47	70	.342	17 1/2
West				
Seattle	84	33	.718	—
Oakland	67	50	.573	17
Anaheim	61	56	.521	23
Texas	52	65	.444	32
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East				
Philadelphia	64	52	.552	—
Atlanta	64	52	.552	—
Florida	59	57	.509	5
NY Mets	54	63	.462	10 1/2
Montreal	48	69	.410	16 1/2
Central				
Chicago Cubs	66	49	.574	—
Houston	65	51	.560	1 1/2
ST Louis	60	55	.522	6
Milwaukee	49	65	.430	16 1/2
Cincinnati	48	67	.417	18
Pittsburgh	44	71	.383	22
West				
Arizona	65	51	.560	—
San Francisco	65	52	.556	1/2
Los Angeles	65	52	.556	1/2
San Diego	57	59	.491	8
Colorado	48	68	.414	17

Complete results
American League
Baltimore 4, Boston 2;
Tampa Bay 4, Minnesota 3;
Kansa City 4, Detroit 1;
National League
St Louis 6, NY Mets 3;
San Francisco 9, Chicago Cubs 4;
Philadelphia 7, Los Angeles 3
Arizona 3, Atlanta 1;
San Diego 6, Pittsburgh 2;
Florida 13, Houston 5;
Cincinnati 7, Colorado 3;
Milwaukee 6, Montreal 0. *Reuters*

Bonds hits No. 50

CHICAGO—Barry Bonds hit his career-high 50th homer, reaching the mark faster than any player ever, and pitcher Livan Hernandez also homered in going 4-for-4 Saturday as the San Francisco Giants beat the Chicago Cubs 9-4.

Sammy Sosa hit his 41st home run for the Cubs. He homered three times Thursday at Wrigley Field.

Bonds' three-run homer capped a six-run second inning. That was enough for Hernandez (11-11), who won his fifth straight decision.

Hernandez, who drove in three runs and scored three, was the first pitcher to get four hits in a game since Colorado's John Thomson on June 1, 1997. *AP*

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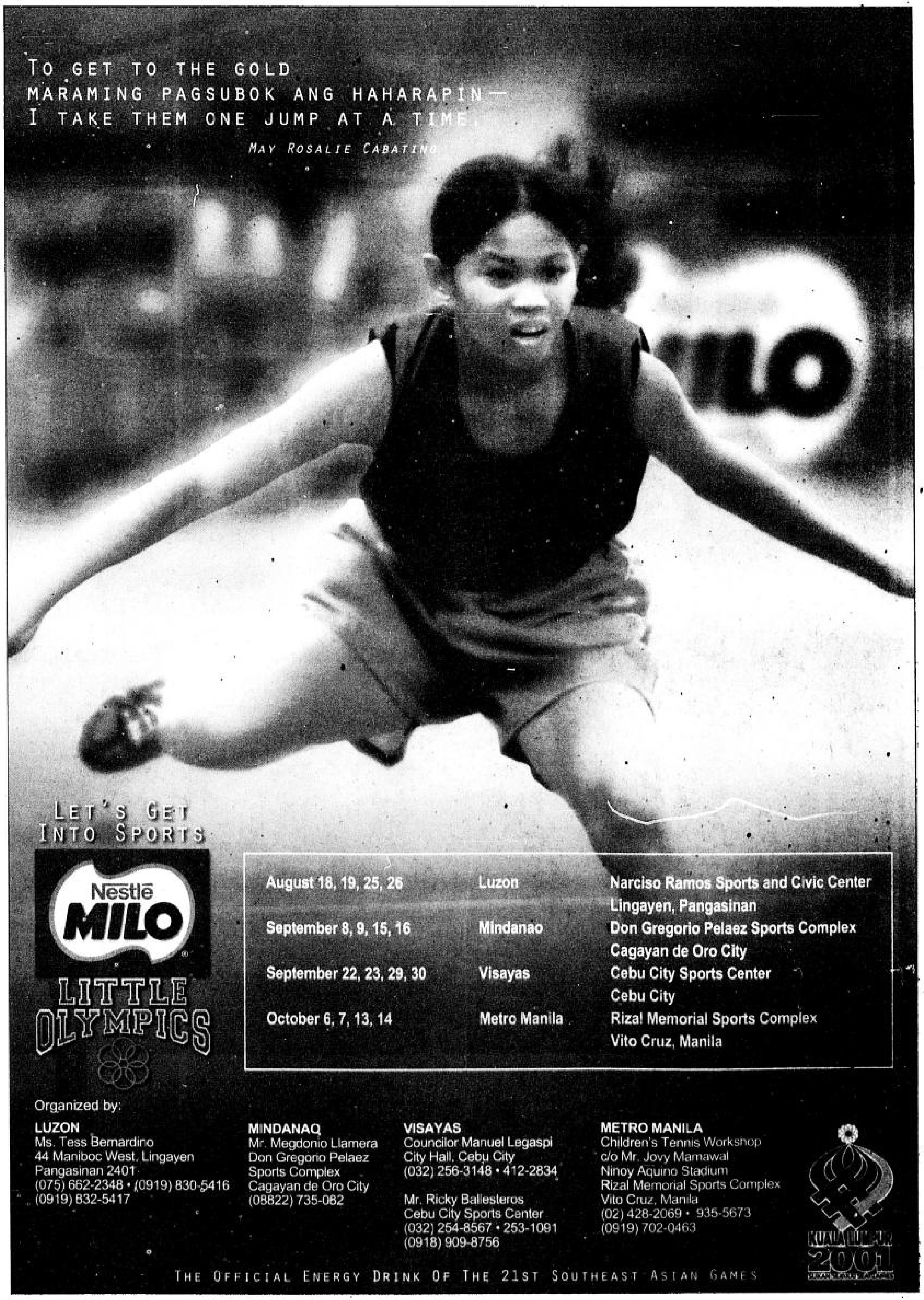

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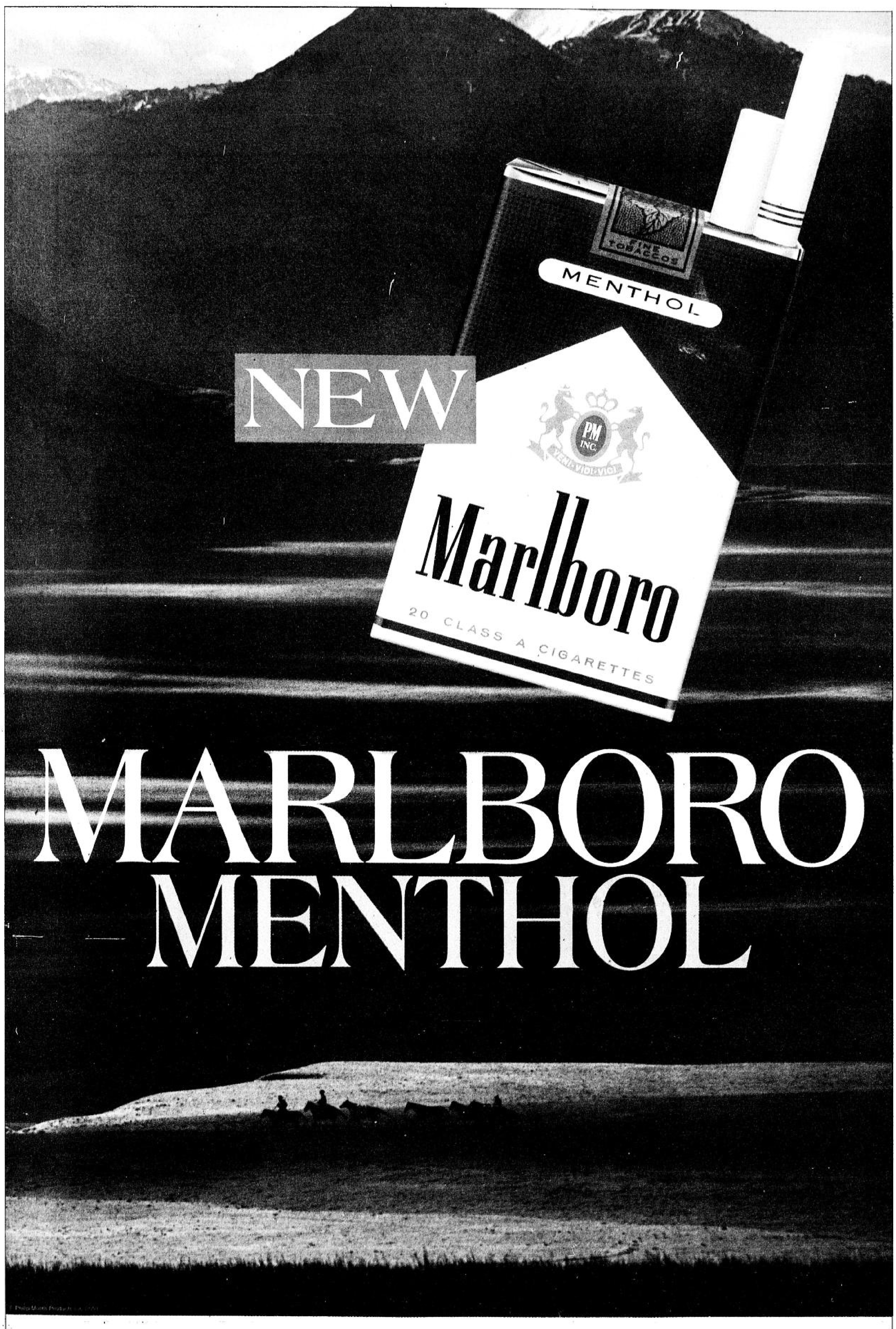
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Aussie firm threatens to sue RP over thrash

BY NELSON F. FLORES

AN AUSTRALIAN firm has threatened to sue the Philippine government before an international court should the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) award to its former local counterpart the garbage contract which the firm claimed it had been awarded earlier.

Jancom International Development Projects Ltd. of Australia, through its president, Jay Alparslan, said it would file the suit with the International Chambers of Commerce in London, England to enforce its claim over the contract.

But MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. laughed off the threat and said he has been a judge for too long to know what is legal and what is not.

Abalos said the MMDA has not awarded the garbage contract to any firm, local or international, in view of ongoing talks with potential garbage contractors.

Alparslan expressed fear that the MMDA might forge a compromise agreement with the locally based Jancom Environment Corp. (JEC), which he claimed is no longer authorized to represent his firm or renegotiate the company's waste-to-energy contract awarded by the Ramos administration in 1997.

But a JEC representative, lawyer Manuel Molina, said the juridical personality and corporate integrity of the company is beyond question.

Molina said that if there have been transfers of shares and changes in ownership, they were all done legally and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

He said JEC, which has the full technological and financial backing of Vivendi and Alstrom, both renowned firms engaged in garbage management worldwide, was organized purposely to be the contracting party for the waste-to-energy project of the Philippine government.

He added that Alparslan joined the Filipino group in the initial bidding for the project but has since lost his authority to represent the company since he failed to pay for his subscription.

JEC claimed that it previously acquired the contract to put up a landfill and an incinerator in San Mateo, Rizal. But the government has since nullified the agreement following the closure of the San Mateo landfill and the passage of the Clean Air Act that bans the use of incinerators.

Molina said Alparslan and his one-man firm had transferred all his rights to JEC.

"He (Alparslan) could not even afford to pay his plane fares for his trips to Manila from Australia," Molina said. "How could he invest in the Philippines? He has nothing to invest at all. He is a corporate hijacker."

Abalos said he does not want to be dragged into the corporate intramurals between JEC and Alparslan. But he said JEC must first show it is the proper firm to negotiate for the garbage contract.

Bag triggers panic at McDonald's

PATRONS of a popular fast food restaurant in Makati panicked and run to the street on Saturday after a restaurant crew member found a plastic bag which was believed to contain a time bomb.

But Makati policemen found the bag contained only lengths of wire and old batteries. The bag had been left inside the ladies room of the McDonald's branch at the corner of Makati Avenue and Jupiter Street.

After combing the area, police also declared

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CHIP TECHNOLOGY
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo receives a sample of a 300-mm wafer representing Intel's latest Mobile Pentium Processor-M from Intel Corp. president and CEO Craig Barrett. Intel Philippines is the first Intel assembly, test and manufacturing site to implement this latest breakthrough in manufacturing technology. Also at the rite are (from left) Intel Asia Pacific GM Christian Morales, Technology Manufacturing Group vice president Siew Hai Wong and Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas.

Alien detainee's death blamed on lack of medical attention

By Alcuin Papa

FOREIGNERS being held in the Bureau of Immigration detention center in Bicutan, Taguig are complaining of the lack of medical attention for them after one detainee, an Indian, reportedly died last Thursday.

Canadian Raymond Jackson identified the fatality as Satnam Singh, 34, married with three children. Jackson said Singh died of heart failure.

That morning, Jackson said, Singh complained of chest pains and asked to be brought to the hospital. Jail guards allegedly asked for money before they would bring Singh to a hospital.

When Singh was not able to produce any money, the guards told him to wait for the next guard shift.

That afternoon, Singh's chest pains became severe and he was brought to the Medical Center along UN Avenue in Manila. However, he was declared dead on arrival.

"Singh's case characterizes the poor medical attention given to us here," Jackson said in a phone interview. "It's really terrible and we don't really know who will die next."

He said the less than 200 detainees in the BI jail are prone to respiratory ailments and other communicable diseases like typhoid fever, dengue fever, tuberculosis and heart problems. He attributed their susceptibility to diseases to poor living conditions and the lack of any qualified doctor to attend to them.

While Jackson said the detention center does have a doctor—Dr. Elsie Lobrin—assigned to take care of them, the doctor allegedly does not pay any attention to them.

"She comes once in a blue moon when almost everyone is getting sick," Jackson said. "Doctors are supposed to cure and heal patients. But in her case, we become worse.''

He narrated that a Chinese detainee complained of chest pains and went to Lobrin. However, she told him to take Cortal, a local aspirin, and to "just take a bath." The foreigner was later taken to a hospital.

"What kind of medical attention is that?" Jackson said. "That's a horrible way to treat a patient." He said the detainees are questioning Lobrin's qualifications because "she might not even be a real doctor."

He said foreigners are not allowed into a hospital if they cannot "pay" immigration jail guards to let them go out. He said they had to pay jail guards to be able to visit a hospital and the detainees have to finance the trip and food expenses while accompanying any detainee.

Jackson said the detainees would go on a mass hunger strike to protest the poor medical attention given to them.

'Outstanding Mapuans'

THE NATIONAL association of Mapua Alumni (NAMA) has launched the search for "The outstanding Mapuans" (TOM) for 2002.

The TOM awards are given annually to graduates of the Mapua Institute of Technology who have excelled in architecture, civil engineering, sanitary engineering, chemical engineering, chemistry, electrical engineering, electronics and communications engineering, computer engineering, information technology, management and industrial engineering, geology/metallurgical engineering, textile engineering and business administration.

Awards are also given in special fields of endeavor such as government service, military service, academe, entrepreneurship, pioneering and international endeavors, management, alumni service and community service. The awarding ceremonies will be held during the Alumni Night on Jan. 24, 2002 as part of the MIT Foundation Week celebrations.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the TOM Search and Award Committee, 819-3141, fax no. 810-5660 and e-mail address: jjmarciano@tcti.com.ph. Deadline for submission of nominations is on Nov. 30, 2001.

Cop shoots self in fight with colleague

By Philip C. Tubeza

A POLICEMAN chasing a cell phone snatcher in Quezon City accidentally shot himself in the right foot during a scuffle with another policeman who mistook him for a suspect.

PO3 Ernesto R. Cabrera, of the National Capital Region Police Office, shot himself once in the right ankle, said investigator SPO1 Ramon Fernandez of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Cabrera's .45 revolver went off when he was grappling for possession of the gun with another policeman, who was identified only as PO3 Bocayes of the Sangandaan police station.

Both policemen were not in uniform at the time of the accident, police said.

Cabrera, 46, of Samar Street in Old Balara, Diliman, Quezon City, was running after a cell phone snatcher and waving his gun at the intersection of Tandang Sora Street and Commonwealth Avenue about 8:30 p.m. Thursday, police said.

Bocayes, police said, was on his way home when he saw Cabrera running and carrying a gun. He told the investigator that Cabrera did not look like a policeman.

When Cabrera stopped running in front of a 7-eleven convenient store and had put away his pistol, Bocayes approached him and introduced himself as a policeman.

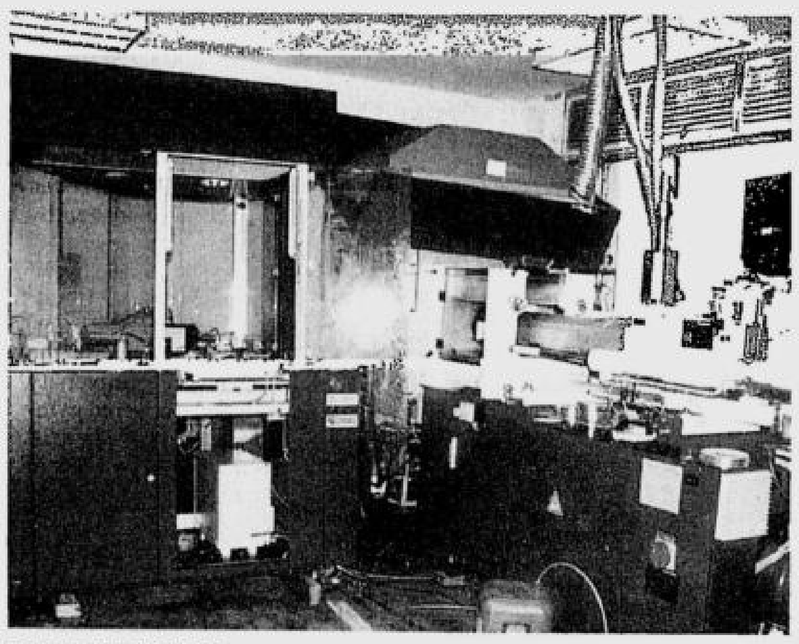
But Cabrera had not yet calmed down and pulled his gun on Bocayes, the investigator said.

Bocayes said he tried to grab the pistol, and the two of them grappled for the gun, which accidentally went off. The bullet hit Cabrera in the right ankle.

After Cabrera was wounded, Bocayes easily overpowered him. It was only then that Cabrera also introduced himself as a policeman, the investigator said.

But Bocayes still ordered Cabrera to remove the remaining bullets from his pistol and then brought him to the Camp Panopio hospital in Cubao.

The two policemen agreed to settle the matter amicably, with Bocayes promising to help pay Cabrera's medical expenses, police said.



PIRATES' DEN
Agents of the Videogram Regulatory Board, whose chair and chief executive officer is retired Brig. Gen. Manuel Mariano, on Aug. 2 raided this plant in Guiguinto, Bulacan, and arrested James Ang, James Hung, Peter Ang and George Ong for illegal duplication of CDs and VCDs. The raiders also seized equipment worth P200 million which is capable of reproducing up to 30,000 discs in one day.

Electrician tries suicide twice, fails twice

By Philip C. Tubeza

RENATO C. GERADO was taken to a hospital on Friday for drinking a liter of gasoline. Saturday, he tried to jump off the fifth floor of the East Avenue Medical Center but policemen were able to trick him and grabbed him before he could make the fatal leap.

Gerado, 32, an electrician of Fatima Himlayan in Tandang Sora, Quezon City, was tied securely to his hospital bed after he went berserk Saturday morning, said PO2 William Aresta II of the Kamuning police station.

Gerado was taken to the hospital Friday after he drank a liter of gasoline. He was admitted to the male medical ward on the fifth floor of EAMC, Aresta said.

But while doctors were treating Gerado, he suddenly went berserk about 7 a.m. He got out of bed, broke the glass door leading to the terrace and threatened to jump, Aresta said.

While distressed doctors and nurses tried to convince Gerado to calm down, hospital guard Renato Cebu called the Kamuning police station and asked for assistance.

A few minutes later, Aresta and his colleagues arrived and tried to convince Gerado to give up his suicide try.

"Don't you get any closer or I'll jump," Aresta quoted Gerado as shouting many times when the policemen tried to approach him.

Gerado said he would not surrender unless Rep. Ted Failon, a former radio personality, came to help him.

But the policemen eventually were able to grab Gerado by using an old trick, Aresta said.

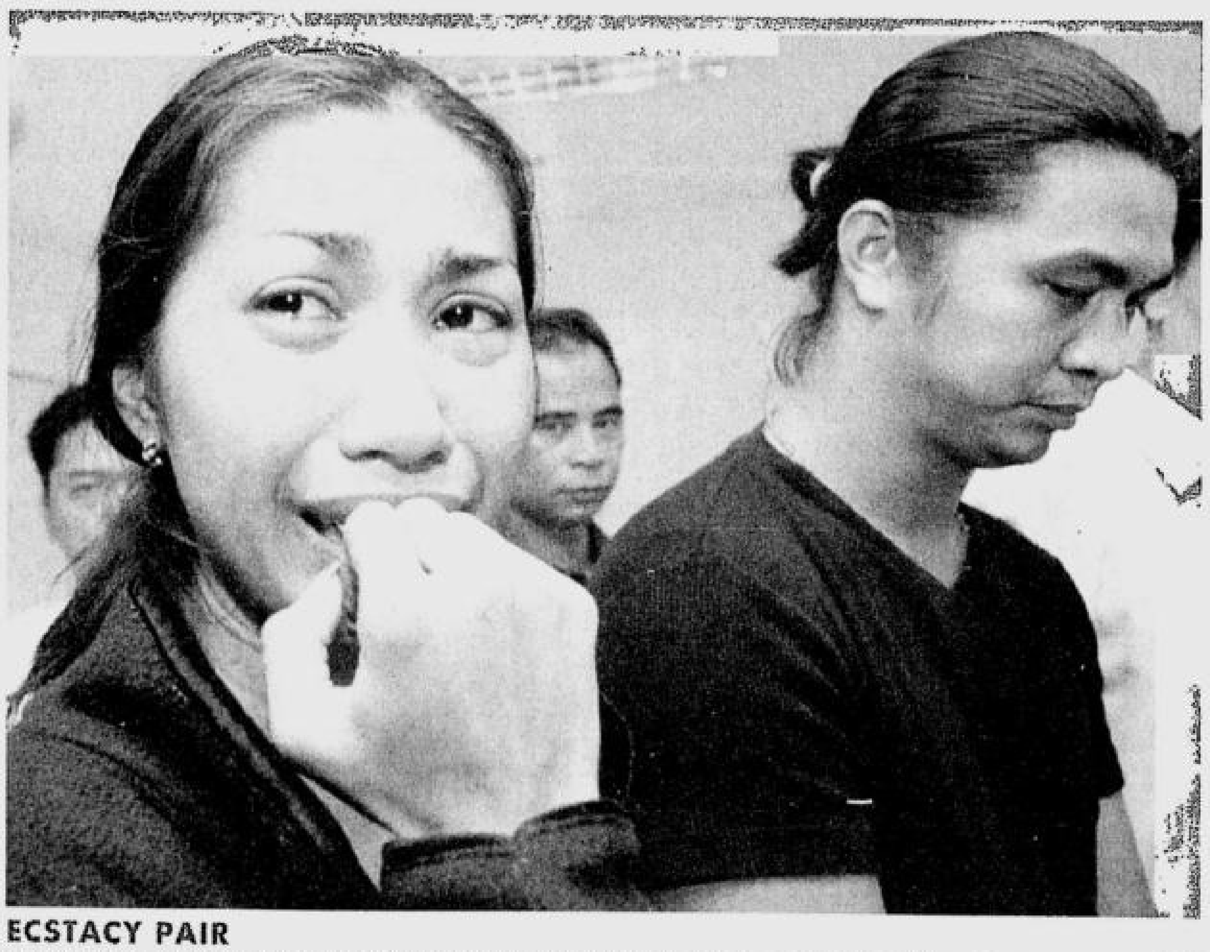
While Gerado was warning police and hospital staff not to get close to him, one of the lawmen suddenly pointed to the sky and said, "What's that?"

It worked. The police were all over him when Gerado turned to look at the sky. They pinned him down on the floor and later took him back to his bed.

The nurses tied Gerado to his bed while doctors treated him for the liter of gasoline he drank.

Aresta said police were still trying to find out what led Gerado to try to kill himself twice.

HONEST JANITRESS
Months after Manila Domestic Airport janitress Flor Mondoyo (second from left) found and returned $10,000 to two Indians, she receives a check for P5,000 from Lufthansa Technik Philippines (LTP). Terminal operations officer Rina de Leon (third from left) was given the same amount for assisting in returning the money. The checks were given by MacroAsia Corp. business development manager Christopher Lu.



ECSTACY PAIR
Penelope Nicole Belone, a receptionist at Westin Philippine Plaza, and Marcus Pangilinan were arrested by police for allegedly selling 300 capsules of Ecstacy. The pair was caught during a buy-bust operation in Malate, Manila on Saturday evening.
DENNIS SABANGAN

Dead boy fished out of QC creek

THE NAKED body of a 13-year-old boy was recovered Thursday morning, 20 hours after he reportedly drowned in a Quezon City creek.

The unidentified victim was fished out of the Dario Creek along Mendoza Street in Barangay Nayon Kaunlaran in Quezon City, said investigator PO1 Romel Merino of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

The boy's parents had contacted the police but they had not appeared in Camp Karingal in Sikatuna Village, Quezon City as of yesterday noon, Merino said. He described the victim as 13 to 14 years old, 5-foot-1, of medium build, naked, and sporting a flat top haircut.

The body bore no external signs of physical injury, Merino added.

The boy reportedly took a dip in the creek Wednesday noon during his school lunch break. But he did not surface after diving into the murky creek, Merino said.

The body was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy, he added.

Philip C. Tubeza

Restaurant workshop

RESTAURATEURS, hoteliers, resort and canteen operators and those planning to open their own food service business have a chance to hone their skills as ProActive Center for Training holds its Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop Aug. 13 - 22, 2001 at Encore! Encore!, 2/L Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City from 1-5 p.m.

Reservations are being accepted on a first-come-first-served basis at tel. nos. 823-4947; cell 0919-5500-601 or e-mail at pactserv@info.com.ph. Only 20 participants will be accepted.

Visit PACT's website at http:/http://www.info.com.ph/-pactserv. Seminar fee is P4,500.00 per participant inclusive of field trip to equipment and food suppliers in Metro Manila, manual, handouts, snacks, certificate of completion, and workshop materials.

The training will cover such topics as planning the concept, menu, location, layout and equipment; hygiene and sanitation; human resource development; and cost control, among others.

Food service consultants, restaurant and hotel executives, and professors of hotel and restaurant management have been tapped to be facilitators.

Drug test for all jail guards

ALL jail guards of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology will be required to undergo a drug test, according to BJMP officer in charge Chief Supt. Arturo W. Alit.

Alit directed the bureau's assistant regional directors to conduct the drug test in their areas in cooperation with the National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Center of the Philippine National Police.

Manila City Jail last month completed the drug test for its jail officers, none of whom was found positive for using illegal drugs.

The BJMP head said the drug test would identify who among the jail guards in 1,253 city and municipal jails are users of prohibited drugs. Those found using drugs will be immediately removed from their post so they could either be rehabilitated or summarily dismissed, he said.

Due process will always be observed to protect the rights of jail officers, according to Alit.

Alit repeated his warning to BJMP jail officers not to commit any abuses against inmates and their visitors. He said he would throw the book at them if they do not heed his warning.

He said he continues to receive reports that some corrupt jail guards extort money from inmates and their visitors.

He cited a report from the Quezon City jail warden, Supt. Primitivo Benitez, who on Thursday suspended five rookie jail guards for allegedly extorting money from inmates and visitors.

Benitez said the rookie jail guards asked for P20 to P100 before allowing visitors to enter the prison compound.

Alit said this behavior would not be tolerated. Any jail officer found guilty of committing abuses would be charged criminally and administratively, he stressed.

"We will not hesitate to dismiss them from the service," he said.

Last Tuesday, JOI Ultamar Caspe of the Pasay City Jail was arrested by police.

In a report to Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. and Undersecretary for Peace and Order Wencelito Tan Andanar, Alit said Caspe was found sniffing shabu with two police officers who were detained at the Pasay City Jail.

Alit vowed to rid the bureau of jail officers who use illegal drugs.

He also directed jail wardens to tighten security to stop the smuggling of illegal drugs into jails.

Bus kills Pagasa employee

AN EMPLOYEE of the Philippine Atmospheric and Geophysical Service Administration (Pagasa) was killed when he was run over by a speeding bus in Quezon City on Saturday.

The victim was identified as Samson Vasquez, 37, of Veterans Village, Barangay Holy Spirit in Quezon City.

Bus driver Emedio Pacatang, 34, of Imus, Cavite, is facing charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Investigation showed that the accident happened about 4:30 a.m. on Saturday on Commonwealth Avenue, according to Supt. Raymundo Equibal of the Quezon City Traffic Sector V.

Pacatang was said to have been driving a Mina's Bus (NXP 926) fast on the dimly lighted highway when Vasquez suddenly crossed.

The driver did not even notice that the bus had hit someone, if not for the thud the collision made. He stopped the vehicle, stepped out of the bus to check and found the bloodied victim, whom he then brought to the hospital.

Vasquez succumbed to severe head injuries and other wounds while being rushed to the East Avenue Medical Center. Pacatang is detained at the Quezon City Traffic Sector V.

Agnes E. Donato

Bag triggers panic . . .

(From page A25)

the hamburger joint safe and bomb-free.

Police said they received a phone call about 3:30 p.m. that a bomb was found inside the ladies room of the restaurant.

A visibly relieved Southern police District Office director Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez lauded his men for their quick response.

Gutierrez said his men were trained to respond quickly and noted that policemen under his office were working double time without extra pay to maintain police visibility in the streets. He said the entire force works on a 12-hour shift daily.

"That is four more working hours for every policeman per shift," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez also revealed that he recently met with the representatives of the homeowners associations of five exclusive subdivisions in the city following a reported increase in criminal activities in Metro Manila. He said close security coordination between the homeowners of these posh villages and the SPDO was established during the meeting.

Gutierrez denied reports that kidnapping is rampant in the city. He said that except for one instance in Muntinlupa, where a Singaporean businessman was abducted, no other kidnapping incident was reported.

But he lamented the refusal of certain commercial centers like the Rockwell commercial complex to allow uniformed policemen in their establishments. He said there were a number of instances when Rockwell security men asked policemen conducting routine patrols near the complex to leave.

Nelson F. Flores

Worker stabbed dead over waitress

A CONSTRUCTION worker at St. Scholastica's College on Saturday killed a coworker over a waitress after they drank with several friends in a bar.

Bonifacio Ibarra, 31, stabbed Antonio Zapanta, 40, in the abdomen about 3 a.m. on Vito Cruz Street near Taft Avenue in Malate, Manila, said SPO1 Virgo Villareal of the Western Police District Homicide Division.

Ibarra and Zapanta were workers at a construction site inside St. Scholastica's College in Manila.

Prior to the stabbing, Ibarra, Zapanta and their coworkers went drinking at Cat's Eye beerhouse on Vito Cruz Street, police said.

The other workers said Ibarra and Zapanta had a heated argument over a waitress. Ibarra later denied this and told police that Zapanta and their coworkers beat him up when he refused to pay the bill of the entire group, Villareal said.

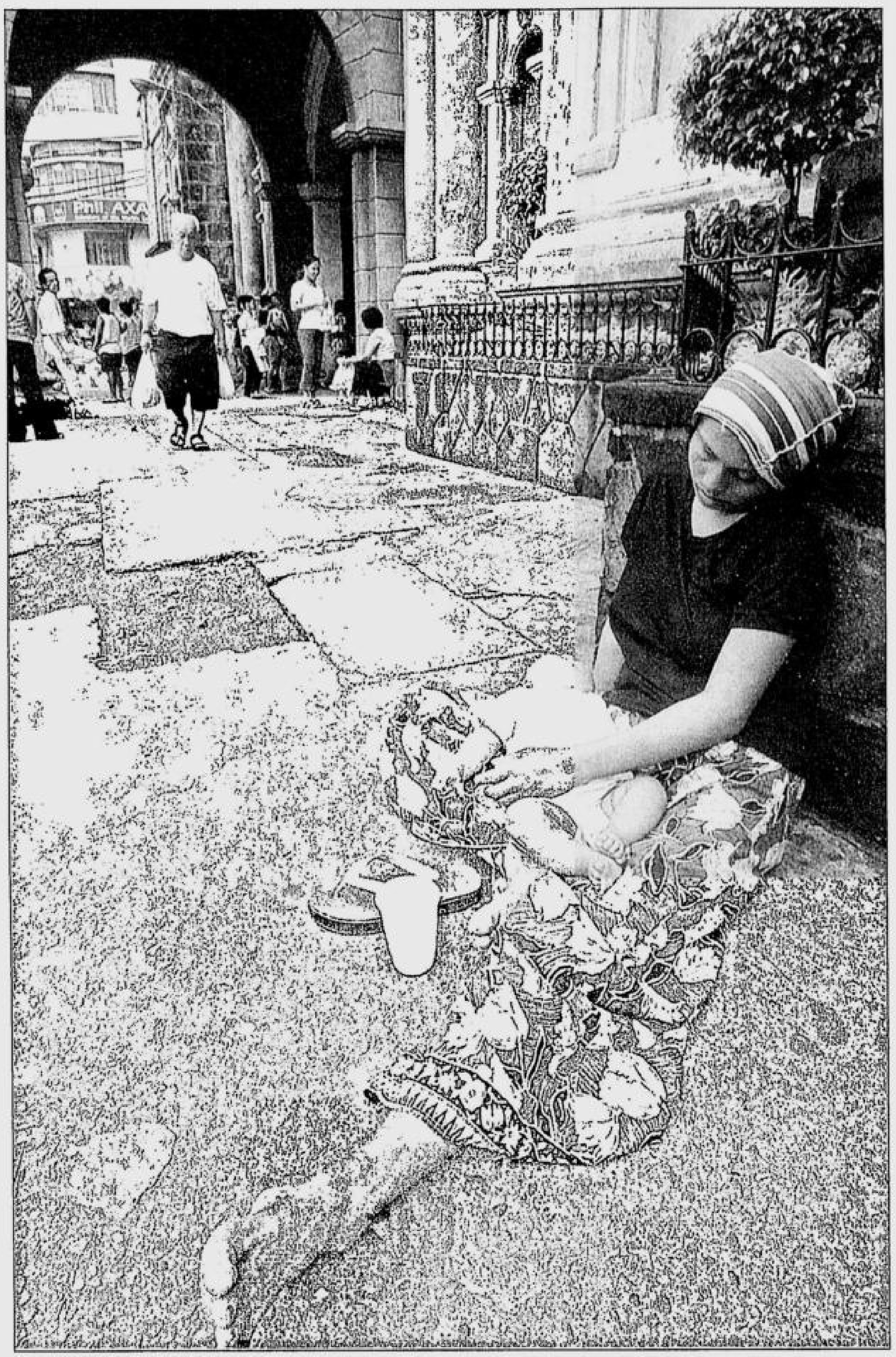
After the fight, Ibarra went back to the construction site, got a knife and waited for Zapanta in a dark portion of Vito Cruz, the investigator said.

When Zapanta and the other workers arrived, Ibarra immediately stabbed Zapanta, police said. The suspect attempted to escape but was arrested by SPO1 Rogelio Rapoz.

Christian V. Esguerra

No Bare Eye today

RECAH Trinidad's Bare Eye will appear on Wednesday.



HEAVEN'S GATE

Her plastic cup of alms far from running over, a beggar sleeps with her baby outside the Binondo church in Manila's Chinatown. Some beggars have been known to use other people's babies as a "prop" to stir up public sympathy.

ERIK ARAZAS

Worker stabbed dead during birthday party

By Agnes E. Donato

A 20-YEAR-OLD house painter early yesterday morning was killed in a rumble that broke out during a birthday party in Mandaluyong City.

Lawrence Beltran, of Blumentritt Street, Barangay Old Zaniga, Mandaluyong, succumbed to a stab wound in the stomach. He died while witnesses were bringing him to the Mandaluyong City Medical Center.

Police are still searching for suspect John Eric Mortel, 18, a high school dropout and a resident of Old Sta. Mesa, Manila. Witnesses identified Mortel as the one who stabbed Beltran.

At least 13 people, including Mary Joy Cabra, who was celebrating her 18th birthday, and her father Rodolfo, 44, were arrested in connection with the rumble.

The others who were arrested were Cabra's brothers Michael, 20, and Mark Anthony, 18; Santiago Francial, 44; Lydon Ribariz, 21; Romeo Balbero, 19; Enrico Vicencio, 20; Ronald Alcantara, 18; Pio Samson Jr., 21; Tong Tantoco, 20; Reynante, 19; and Regie Castro.

The case investigator said the rumble happened about 2:30 a.m. while the party was going on at the Cabra residence.

For a still unknown reason, a group of men, reportedly led by Mortel, confronted Beltran and the confrontation resulted in a rumble.

Responding policemen, headed by SPO1 Ricardo Gutierrez, arrived at the scene almost two hours after the brawl, but Mary Joy and her father initially prevented them from entering the premises.

Party guest Castro, reportedly reeking of alcohol, threw a plastic chair at the policemen, hitting PO1 Elvin Ballesteros, the investigator said.

Ribariz allegedly tried to grab Gutierrez's M-16 baby armalite, prompting the other lawmen to fire warning shots in the air.

Senior Insp. Efren Jugo, Mandaluyong police criminal investigation division chief, said Mary Joy told investigators that Mortel confessed to her that he stabbed Beltran with a fan knife during the commotion.

Those who were arrested will be charged with various offenses, including grave resistance, serious disobedience to a person of authority and public disturbance, according to Jugo.

'Left-leaning' students accused of causing Laguna school violence

By Romulo O. Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAMBA CITY—"Leftist" students started the trouble during the dispersal of a rally here on Friday at the University of Perpetual Help Rizal (UPHR), which left several students and school employees injured, school officials said in a statement yesterday.

"Despite the series of dialogues we held last week with the student leaders who are officers of the Supreme Student Council and various college councils, (and after) the administration immediately implemented improvements and (upgraded) facilities, these students reacted unreasonably," said the statement.

But Jinnia Malabanan, spokesperson of the striking students, denied that dialogues were held.

"They (administration) were actually referring to a meeting they had with the student council officers where they just presented their plans and programs without hearing the sentiments of the students," Malabanan said.

"They (striking students) floated inflammatory manifestos on campus and held protest rallies laced with violence and mixed with subversive elements," administration's statement said. "In the ensuing events, Perpetual employees were seriously injured and the innocent students also became victims of their lawlessness."

But the statement did not identify the university employees and students who were supposedly injured during the rally.

"I do not know of any university employee seriously hurt during the melee," said Malabanan, a leader of the Student Alliance for Democracy (Stand). "They should give names and present proof if they have any."

School authorities said the main agenda of the protesting students "is to infiltrate the UPHR-Calamba campus with their left-leaning ideology. This is evidenced by the very few units that they (took) this semester."

But Malabanan said she could show her enrolment records to prove the administration wrong. "We are enrolled as full-time students. All of us who joined the strike have full loads this semester. The administration is fabricating its claims."

School officials said the administration is "constrained to suspend classes indefinitely until a peaceful and equitable solution is forged to protect the welfare of the greater number of employees and students and to prevent possible loss of lives."

But the statement also admitted that the school is collecting P2,500 from each student as "school development fee," which will be placed in the development fund managed by a development committee composed of college deans and student leaders from the College Student Council.

The projects proposed by the students, with which the university concurred, included a covered gymnasium that will house basketball courts; a swimming pool, a track oval and a football court; a model computer lab that will house 40 IBM computers; and a speech laboratory.

These projects cost about P40 million, the statement said. The administration would shoulder 80 percent of the cost, donors 10 percent, and the school development fees 10 percent.

Series on Father Rhoel

"INTO the Mountain," the book containing the true story of Fr. Rhoel Gallardo, the Claretian missionary who was kidnapped, tortured and killed by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan last year, is being translated into Filipino and serialized in Pinoy Times, the serious tabloid.

The serialization begins with today's issue of Pinoy Times and will continue both in the paper's regular edition, which appears Monday to Friday, and in its special edition, which comes out on Saturday.

Written by veteran journalist Jose Torres Jr. who was born in Mindanao, the book relates the horrifying and heroic experience not only of Father Rhoel but also of the two teachers and students who were kidnapped along with him.

Cortez, 45

GILBERT Fernandez Cortez, of Manila and Muntinlupa, died on Friday, Aug. 10, at the Philippine Heart Center for Asia. He was 45.

He left behind his wife Evelyn Villanueva Evalle-Cortez, children Gino, Gillian, Abbey and Marielle, mother Zenaide Fernandez-Cortez, brother Bayani, sisters Ligaya and Lualhati, brother in law Ding, uncle Calixto (Stutz) Fernandez, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews and close friends.

His remains lie in state in the Premier Room of the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels on Sucat Road in Parañaque City.

He will be buried on Wednesday, Aug. 15, at 3 p.m. at Everest Hills Memorial Homes in Susana Heights, Muntinlupa.

Woman hangs herself after lovers' quarrel

By Christian V. Esguerra

A 30-YEAR-OLD woman on Saturday killed herself after quarreling with her live-in partner whom she suspected of having affairs with other women.

Rowena Cabrera hanged herself with an electrical cord in her house on Raxabago Street in Juan Luna, Tondo, Manila about 7 p.m., said SPO1 Edmundo Cabal of the Western Police District Homicide Division.

Before committing suicide, Cabrera confronted her common-law husband Joel for his alleged womanizing, investigation showed.

After Joel left the house to cool off, Cabrera took an electrical cord, looped it around her neck, and tied the other end around a wooden beam in the ceiling, police said.

Joel's friend Rodolfo Ocampo later found Cabrera's body, police said.

Ocampo rushed Cabrera to the Tondo General Hospital, but she was already dead.

Man kills partner

A 20-YEAR-OLD woman was shot dead by her lover last Thursday in the Rizal town of Pateros, police said.

Liza Diesta, of 1023 E. Hermosa St. in Barangay San Roque, died from gunshot wounds in the chest and arm.

She was lying face down on the floor in the sala when neighbors found her body about 9 p.m. Thursday, police said.

Diesta's assailant, who was identified only as Marlon, escaped, bringing with him the handgun of still unknown caliber that he used in the killing. Marlon was the victim's lover, according to police.

Investigation showed that the shooting happened about 3 p.m. Thursday in Diesta's residence.

Insp. Crisanto Mamararlo, Pateros municipal police station staff duty officer, said Diesta's neighbors saw Marlon crying shortly before Diesta's body was found.

Mamararlo added that the shooting could have been triggered by jealousy. *Nelson F. Flores*

Shabu smuggler nabbed

A WOMAN was arrested by members of the Las Piñas City Drug Enforcement Unit after she tried to smuggle a gram of shabu to an inmate of the Las Piñas Jail on Friday.

Arrested was Margarita Castillo, a resident of 402 Salinas St. in Bacoor, Cavite, according to Senior Insp. Vicente Raquion, chief of the Las Piñas DEU.

Investigation by PO2 Rufino Dalagdagan showed that Castillo was caught about 3 p.m. at the jail.

She was on her way to visit a friend, Victorina de los Santos, who is detained on drug charges.

At the gate of the detention center, jail guards noticed Castillo acting strangely.

Raquion sent one of his female guards to frisk Castillo. A sachet of shabu was allegedly found hidden in her underwear. Castillo said she meant to give the drugs to De los Santos.

The substance was later confirmed as shabu. Castillo is facing charges of violation of Republic Act No. 6425, the Dangerous Drugs Act. *Alcuin Papa*

Computer shop robbed

ROBBERS yesterday broke into a Navotas store and took several computers worth nearly P200,000, police said.

At least five armed men robbed the computer shop owned by Elino Tongco, 26, on M. Naval Street in Barangay Bagumbayan-South, about 4 a.m., investigation showed.

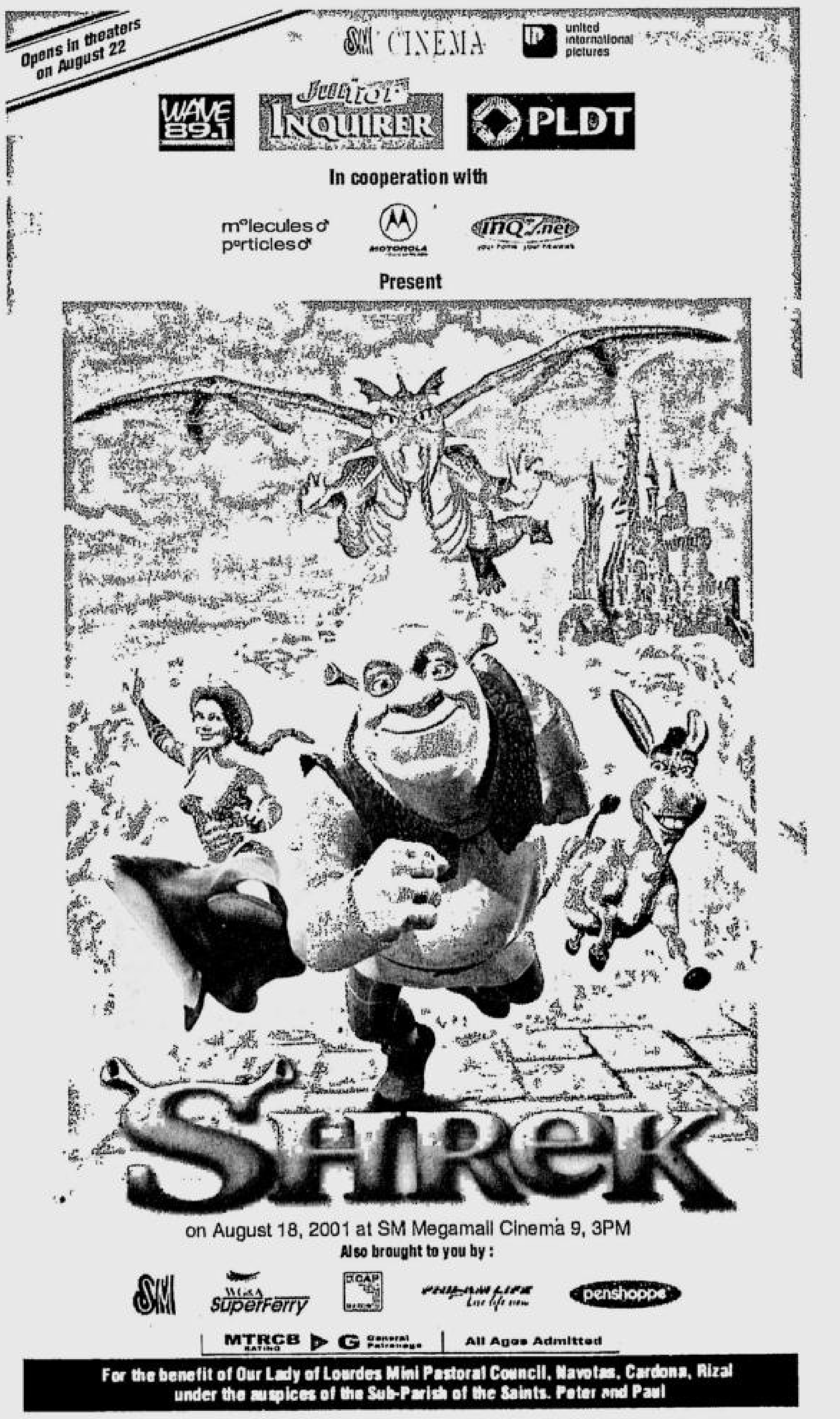
Authorities said the loot was worth at least P198,000.

The robbers used a bolt cutter to destroy the padlocks of the store, police said.

Witness Ronnie Matias told police he saw the men loading computers in a gray Nissan Vanette with license Plate No. UHY-723.

Police said the same van was used in a previous robbery in Malabon.

Christian V. Esguerra



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ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	RED DIARIES
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ANIMAL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	CATS & DOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	RADYO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	GATAS / TEMPTATION NIGHT
ODEON	RADYO
ODEON-2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ROBEN	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
TANDEM-1	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
TANDEM-2	HILIG NG KATAWAN
TIMES	TRAFFIC / CAST AWAY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
QUEZON-1	AMORSEKO
REMAR	RADYO
REMAR-2	KISS OF THE BRAGON
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-2	BRIDGIT JONE'S DIARY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
CINEMA-2	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-3	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-6	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
CINEMA-7	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-8	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-12	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-14	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-15	RADYO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-2	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-3	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-4	CRAZY BEAUTIFUL
CINEMA-5	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-6	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	UNDER COVER ANGEL
CINEMA-2	SUGAT SA PURI
CINEMA-4	WARAY

Globe invades club scene

GET ready for an evening of ultimate party experience as Globe Handyphone Gentxt, your passport to the coolest happenings and big discounts in town, joins hands with the world's renowned clubbing impresarios, GodsKitchen, in bringing Manila's club scene to a different dimension, Aug. 18, 10 p.m. at the Glorietta Mall Activity Center.

Club goers will surely marvel at the sights and sounds that GodsKitchen specially prepared for the Manila leg of its Global Gathering World Tour.

The glamorous event will see UK's DJ AJ Gibson in action, with fresh club music guaranteed to make the event a stylish night of the 21st century.

GodsKitchen's roots can be traced back to the latter part of '90s when it made tremendous raves in the UK. Its unique way of fusing the finest DJs with extravagant décor and its attitude toward loyal clubbers, made it a big hit that it soon spread it wings to bring the fun and frenzy in different parts of the world.

The phenomena that is GodsKitchen soon made it to the club scene in Ibiza, the legendary isle of style off the coast of Spain. The momentous event made GodsKitchen a renowned name in the European market.

Shortly afterward, the resounding success of GodsKitchen brought it to different shores, touring the world with a legion of top DJs from different countries.

Entrance fee to this much-anticipated gathering of clubbers is P400, but all Globe Handyphone subscribers will pay only P200, while existing Gentxt club members can get in for only P100.

If you apply for a Gentxt card from Aug. 3 to 18 at the special Gentxt booth at Music One in Glorietta, you will be entitled to a 50-percent discount on your membership fee and have the privilege to party with Gentxt and GodsKitchen for free.

For more information, visit the Gentxt website at www.gentxt.com.ph or key in the message Gentxt in your Globe Handyphone and send it to 2338 for a complete list of Gentxt activities.

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Colin Firth
Hugh Grant
August 13 - Monday
4:45 PM
6:55 PM - Closed
9:05 PM - Closed
11:15 PM

PLANET OF THE APES
opens Wednesday Aug. 15

GET a copy of the 4th issue of Pelikula! Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication. Special discounts given to Louie's THX members

Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

CIRCLE of 10 hopefuls Nadine Eidloth and Christian Adrales.

Dina doing soaps . . .

(From page A30)

ing you because you were there is different," she explains. "On my first taping day, they gave me flowers when I arrived on the set. Everything was ready, from the costumes to the food. I didn't even have to tell them I'm vegetarian now."

But Dina says she misses having a talk show. "I got so used to sleeping early so I would also wake up early. Last week, I was rushing. I thought I was going to 'D Day,' but later I realized I would just tape for 'GMA Telesine.'"

Dina was known to be not keen on soaps.

"I used to think soaps were inane, but today, soaps mirror Filipino values," Dina asserts. "If my viewers can identify with me as wife and woman, all the more they can identify with the characters in a soap."

However, Dina plays a villain in "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin." She is **Martina**, the former girlfriend of **Ferdinand Fuentebella (Albert Martinez)**. She gets raped, kills her assailant, but by some twist of fate lands in jail. Hardened by years of imprisonment, she eventually gets out and seeks vengeance.

Advertising as stepping stone

WE caught the batch of this year's Circle of 10 contestants, who were presented to the press last weekend at the National Sports Grill.

Forty fresh faces and vibrant personalities will vie for the title, to be given to five males and five females. The winners will be proclaimed in a pageant on Aug. 15, 8 p.m. at Onstage Greenbelt in Makati.

This is the second year of the Circle of 10, which is organized by A One Entertainment Productions, with **Rapi Revilla** as executive producer.

"Name the most stunning newcomers in show biz and most of them were discovered in print ads or TV commercials," says Revilla.

"Since the advertising world is forever on the lookout for exciting new faces, the Circle of 10 search will definitely be a plus for our clients. That's why we're always looking for potential winners."

The contestants underwent workshops on personality development, projection and emoting before the cameras, diction, speech and even social grace.

They were also trained in team building so they could get to know each other better and enjoy each other's company.

Each of the 10 winners will get P20,000 cash, plus gift certificates from the sponsors. On finals night, they will wear formal outfits created by designers **Boying Eustaquio** and **Lloy Arceo**, in a mini fashion show, including a parade of the contestants in Dickies casuals.

Hosting the finals night are **Carlos Agassi, Troy Montero** and **Desiree del Valle**.

Carlos will receive the Model of the Year award, together with MTV Asia VJ **Donita Rose**.

The female contestants are **Corazon Adorador, Eloisa Aguinaldo, Grace Ann Apuad, Luzia Dy, Nadine Eidloth, Carrie Hasty, Kristina Hipolito, Margaux Nalus, Lara Monterola, Leandrea Natividad, Honey Obusan, Paulette Quinto, Krystle Ruiz, Monica Anna Rodriguez, Paula Felice Rosales, Nasem Saatchi, Say Yutadco, Marianne Tamayo** and **Janine Tan**.

The boys are **Jeffrey Abergos, Christian Adrales, Ryan Aniciete, Acis Austria, John Borjal, Alvin Calinisan, Ferdinand Cayton, Lex Cortez, Nicholas Dimagiba, Paolo Gabriel, Max Hernandez, Louie Isaac, Alvin Lorenzo, Macky Lim, Arman Mayco, Yo Ocampo, Chester Polican, Jack Raymond Co Ng Sy, Jordan Rico** and **Kenneth Villavicencio**.

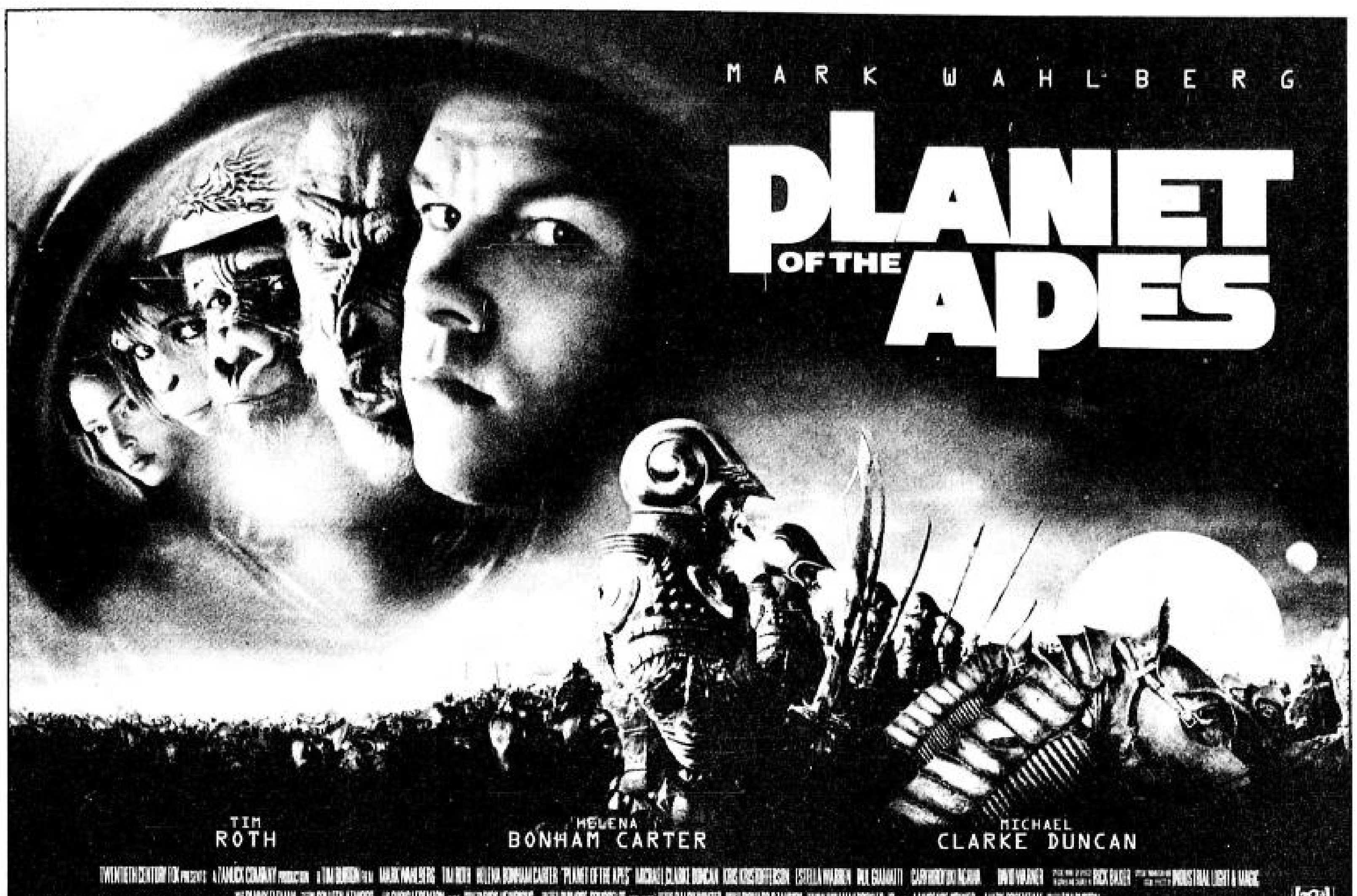
E-heads releases new single

AFTER the driving beat of their first single, "Maskara" and the love-uncertain lyrics of the follow-up "Hula," the Eraserheads comes out with "How Far Will You Go," the latest single from their new album, "Carbon Stereoxide."

"How Far Will You Go" is a collaboration between bassist Buddy Zabala and drummer Raimund Marasigan. It talks about one's commitment to a lover or friend and uses the imagery of a routine airplane journey, a style that the Eraserheads has been famously known for.

Catch the Eraserheads live at their regular gigs at Virgin Café Tomas Morato (Aug. 17), Padi's Point Las Piñas (Aug. 24), '70s Bistro Anonas, QC (Aug. 27), Music Warehouse (Sept. 28) and in special shows in Davao at the Kadayawan Festival (Aug. 19) and a special concert for Peñafrancia in Bicol (Sept. 13) and the Maskara Festival in Bacolod (Oct. 13).

"Carbon Stereoxide" is released by BMG Records Pilipinas.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KISS OF THE DRAGON - R 18 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	MOULIN ROUGE - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	THE ANIMAL - P 13 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
CRAZY BEAUTIFUL - P 13 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	CATS & DOGS - GP 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING
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crazy/beautiful
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Monday & Tuesday
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SM MANILA @ 10:30 AM, SM NORTH @ 3:00 PM,
SM FAIRVIEW @ 5:00 PM, SM MEGAMALL @ 7:00 PM
AUGUST 19, 2001
PAVILION, BIÑAN @ 12 NN, FESTIVAL, ALABANG @ 1:30 PM,
SM SOUTHMALL @ 3:00 PM, SM BACOOR @ 5:00 PM, SM SUCAT @ 7:00 PM
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COGIE DOMINGO   DANILO BARRIOS   JAMES BLANCO

Cool Dudes 24/7

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also starring TONTON GUTIERREZ   WILLIAM MARTINEZ   JOHN APACIBLE   CALOY ALDE
story and screenplay by ANDREW A. PAREDES   director of photography MARIA ALMA R. DE LA PEÑA   edited by REGGIE GULLE   production designer GERRY SANTOS   musical director RAUL MITRA
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Art Film
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A Piece of Eden
A romantic comedy from the acclaimed director of Prancer, Weeds and Bang the Drum Slowly, with Tyne Daly, Rebecca Harrell & Marc Grapey.

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
A JOHN HANCOCK FILM
A Piece of Eden
A Piece of Eden is a bittersweet comedy that follows three generations of the unlucky Tredici family from Corsica in the 1940's to an Indiana fruit farm in the present. Young Bob, the first member of the family born in America, is heir to the family farm, but has no interest in farming and leaves to pursue a show business career in New York. When his father becomes ill, Bob returns and tries to revitalize the farm while cousin Greg tries to take it away from him. It is from the acclaimed director of *Prancer, Weeds* and *Bang the Drum Slowly*, which stars Tyne Daly, Rebecca Harrell & Marc Grapey.
Featured in the 1999 Chicago International Film Festival, A Piece of Eden placed third, among hundreds of films, in the Audience Choice Awards.
"a moving, powerfully affecting drama in which you discover that you can go home again - but not without laughter and tears."
- Helen Whitney, Director/Writer/Producer
"I've watched it five times and could watch it five more. I loved it."
- Diane Laird, Author

MTRCB RATING PG-13   Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

KIRSTEN DUNST
JAY HERNANDEZ
SNEAK PREVIEWS TODAY!
crazy/beautiful

KIRSTEN DUNST AND TEEN MOVIES GROW-UP IN A FILM ABOUT TRUTH, BEAUTY, FREEDOM & LOVE.
Kirsten Dunst, once the talented child star of "Jumanji" and "Interview with a Vampire", showcases her acting prowess in her first serious adult role as she teams up with charismatic newcomer Jay Hernandez in a sexy and provocative teen drama.
In this powerfully emotional touching love story, Nicole Oakley (Kirsten) is a rich, white high school senior rebelling against her father. She meets and falls in love with Carlos Nunez (Jay) a responsible straight-A Latino jock from the wrong side of town. Together they experience the maddening yet healing intensity of first love.
When it's real. When it's right. Risk everything. Break the rules. Be witness to the true beauty of love. CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL OPENS IN MANILA CINEMAS ON AUG. 22.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

What we women want

LAST Friday, I was one of the guests who cut the ribbon at the inauguration of Robinson's Movie World in Robinson's Galleria.

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

Assunta de Rossi, who was striking in a bright lime ensemble, and **Rufa Mae Quinto**, elegant in red, also graced the occasion. My soul "sister" **Boy Abunda**, as always in his trademark black, hosted the affair.

I've written about Robinson's theaters in the past, but now that their renovation is complete, I must say that their lobby will be on even footing with any American mall's cineplex. The color scheme and lighting is even reminiscent of Universal Studios theaters in CityWalk. Plus there are so many food outlets to choose from.

My friends **Pops Fernandez** and **Tessa Prieto Valdes** joined me for the event and we caught "Bridget Jones' Diary." Boy had mistakenly told me that there would be a special premiere that night of "Planet of the Apes" which both Pops and Tessa had wanted to see. It turned out there was a mix-up with the distributor and Robinson's was only able to screen "The Fast and the Furious." Both girls opted to catch the regular screening of "Bridget Jones," even though Tessa had already seen it.

If it's possible, the movie version of "Bridget Jones" managed to improve upon the book. I'd read **Helen Fielding**'s work way back when it first hit the US best-sellers list.

The lead stars were all perfectly cast. **Renee Zellweger** was adorable (she benefited from the 20 pounds she had to gain for the role because a fleshier Renee looked fresher and younger), **Hugh Grant** was roguishly unforgiveable yet still desirable, but Pops and I were bowled over by **Colin Firth** who portrayed **Mark Darcy**.

For the longest time I've had a mega-crush on **Hugh Jackman** (he was Wolverine in "X-Men" and he was recently **John Travolta**'s costar in "Swordfish") because of his rugged, to-die-for attitude and presence on screen.

He's just been pushed aside by Firth, who plays a "good boy" lawyer, who uttered the line Pops and I agreed would be the line we'd most wanted to hear from the men we'd like to have in our lives. That was when he told Bridget that "I like you just as you are." Swoon, swoon, swoon!

Impressive

If you're single and above 25, there's a very strong chance you'll see a lot of Bridget in yourself. You've probably already been through what it's like to have been cheated on and you've been devastated enough by the experience to resort to all-night sessions listening to the cheesiest sad love songs.

You've probably also met someone who repelled you at first with his rude attitude only to discover how much you actually had in common.

What was impressive with this film is the fact that even though we Pinoys are really more in tune with American humor because of our exposure to the **Adam Sandlers** and **Rob Schneiders** of American comedy flicks, and our culture has its own unique standards of what's funny, there's still so much for us to laugh about and identify with, regardless of the very British-ness of Bridget J ones.

The one thing I promised Pops and Tessa was that I was going to definitely order all the animal-print "knickers" (bikini panties for us non-Brits) from Victoria's Secret catalogue, pronto. Watch the movie to understand what I mean!

This is a great girl gang movie to watch. Better yet, watch it with a date. It will clue guys into what we're neurotic about, what insecurities we harbor, and what masculine attributes we detest, and those that we ultimately cherish.

Worth the calories

Bennigan's just opened on Tomas Morato. I remember that when we were living in Boston, one of my school chums, **Caitlin Crowe**, celebrated her birthday at a Bennigan's and it was such a big deal for us then. Caitlin's dad was a very successful corporate lawyer, and the fact that she could treat the entire class to a party at a restaurant impressed all of us.

I've been to Bennigan's four times already since it opened, and I love their buffalo wings. They make the crispiest, with just the right spicy-tangy flavored wings.

Chito Roño agreed with me that their potato skins were yummy and baked crisp without being oily. We've also tried their baby back ribs and they were fall-off-the-bone tender and succulent. Best of all, you have to try their Death by Chocolate and the brownie sundae desserts. Worth every single one of their gazillion calories.

More than just the food, I have to admit that my inner child comes alive in Bennigan's because on the second floor they have a mini video game arcade. Ever since my early childhood, when Car Park in front of what was then Quad in Makati was the absolute weekend afternoon treat, I've always loved arcade games, primarily the shoot-and-bang-'em-up ones with the "real" guns you fire, and the driving ones where you drive your "race car" on a simulated track, complete with the bumps and jolts and hyperactive music.

Cheap date

They were so sweet because we arrived a few minutes past midnight after a taping session in ABS-CBN. And because I literally begged and cajoled the manager, they re-opened the arcade and I was allowed to drive to my heart's (okay, my P100 card's) content.

My director **Jojo**, who treated me, said that I was an ideal date, P100 and I was super thrilled and appreciative. That observation is true. I thoroughly enjoyed my playtime on the machines and it was so stress-relieving.

Bennigan's just improved on the concept of Shakey's from the late '70s and early '80s when they combined pizza with live music and arcade games. There's definitely something for every member of the family. Hurray for Tessa Valdes who happened to be responsible for Bennigan's interior design.

Divine crabs

I missed the ribbon cutting of Red Crab on Tomas Morato because of Josh's accident, but **Raymund Magdaluyo**, the owner, over that weekend kindly sent us over some of their crab variants to try. I loved the sweet-spicy flavor of their Szechuan-style crabs, and the crab baked in butter with lots of garlic was also unbelievably delicious.

I normally shy away from crabs because I sometimes still get an allergic reaction to them, but I figured what the heck. I just popped a Benadryl tablet after my meal.

Credit must be given to wherever Red Crab sources their crabs because they are so big, fresh, firm and *malige,* precisely how we Pinoys like to savor our crabs. Simply divine and a joy to eat with your hands.

Drugs and health

As I write this column, Boy and I are talking about Trade Secretary **Mar Roxas** having just submitted himself to a drug test. He bit the bullet since certain quarters were alluding to him as being a recreational drug user.

We both said he handled it admirably since he went straight to Makati Med from Davao and had his blood and urine analyzed. He was cleared of any traces of any illegal drugs.

I told Boy that there was a time I worried about having a drug test done since I'd at one point taken "Bangkok pills," which studies have shown contain components similar to shabu and they also contain ephedrine, which is a banned substance in the United States.

When I saw that "TV Patrol" report about the short- and long-term negative effects of the diet pills, I cringed because, true to my experience while on it, I was really getting irrationally moody and depressed, crying for the weirdest reasons. In some it can even promote suicidal tendencies.

That's life. I may as well stay fleshy and healthy, rather than skinny and dead.

MegaMillion SweepsTXt 135
PLDT

Question of the Week
August 12 to 17

Si Sharon Cuneta ay tinaguriang ano'ng klaseng star?

1. Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
2. Singing Star
3. Mega Star

Ang dali'ng sumali!

To earn a raffle entry, you must answer 2 questions correctly.

1 Press 135-1 para I-text ang sagot sa Question of the Week.*
2 Kung tama ang sagot mo, hintayin ang second question.
3 Para sagutin ang second question muling i-dial ang135-1.
4 Kung tama ang sagot mo, text your name & birthday para may entry ka na.
5 Abangan ang resulta ng bola sa newspapers o sa mail.

Araw-araw ang bola, milyun-milyon ang pera!

*TXT 135 service must be activated to join the promo. Call 171 for inquiries.
Promo period from August 12 to November 15, 2001.
See leaflet for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1257. Series of 2001.

PLDT
www.pldt.com.ph

Encouraging signs

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THERE are some encouraging signs that the local movie industry is pulling itself out of its years-long slump. Its film products are generally more innovative than before, and some of them are generating renewed interest among viewers who in months past had given up on Filipino movies and watched Hollywood films practically all the time.

A minor landmark event was the success of the latest **Aga Muhlach-Regine Velasquez** starrer "Pangako, Ikaw Lang." Then just last week "Red Diaries" scored at the tills.

The follow-up film this week is "Radyo," topbilling **Rufa Mae Quinto** and **Jeffrey Quizon**. If it clicks with viewers, it'll mean that they're ready for visually-innovative film fare.

If it doesn't, it will indicate that lively, vivid visuals aren't enough to keep local moviegoers, interested, and that they still want strong, involving stories in the movie's they choose to patronize.

Coming up soon is "Cool Dudes," a youth-oriented movie that introduces three stars-presumptive in **Danilo Barrios**, **James Blanco** and **Cogie Domingo**. It's innovative in the sense that it's fiedling new leads, but it's expected to hew closely to the old, reliable "Bagets" and "Guwapings" format, so don't expect too many alternative elements in this production.

In September, we'll be seeing a really alternative film in **Laurice Guillen**'s "American Adobo," which was shot last year in the States, and dramatizes the lives of Filipino-Americans.

Since the movie involved Filipino film talents based in the States, it could become one of the few Filipino films to be successfully distributed, albeit on a limited basis, in the United States.

In addition, some of the production's talents have links to people involved in American independent films, like "The Blair Witch Project." So, the movie has that advantage working its favor, as well.

There are other alternative movies in the pipeline before the year ends, like **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**'s "Mindanao," **Joyce Bernal**'s "Jologs" and **Chito Roño**'s "Dekada '70," so things are looking up.

What we really need now is for viewers to go out their way to patronize these and other promising projects, so that producers will get the message and finance movies that deserve to be made.

Search for teen models

ABS-CBN Consumer Products Inc. is looking for young lookers aged 16-23 to be built up as teen models and spokepersons for its Props fashion line and Chalk Magazine. Application forms and contest rules are found in the August and September issues of Chalk Magazine.

Promo period ends on Sept. 28. By November, three men and three women who've passed the proscreening phase will be selected on finals night. For more information, call 415-2272, locals 3609 or 3616.

Sneak previews

SNEAK previews of the provocative teen drama, "crazy/beautiful," will be held on Aug. 13 and 14 at Alabang Town Center, Festival Supermall, Glorietta 4, Gotesco City, Powerplant, Robinson's Manila, Robinson's Galleria, SM Manila, SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Centerpoint and SM Southmall.

In the film, **Kirsten Dunst** plays a wealthy, rebellious teen who falls in love with a handsome Latino (**Jay Hernandez**), a straight-A student from the wrong side of the tracks.

Dina doing soaps, which she used to think were inane

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

"WHEN God closes a door, He opens a window. But in my case, He opened more doors."

This is what **Dina Bonnevie** maintains after her daily morning talk show, "D Day," folded up last week.

"When I looked at all the things God gave me after my talk show ended, I realized I got so much more," Dina allows. "The most important thing is that I'm back to acting."

Dina will join the cast of GMA 7's soap "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin" starting Monday, Aug. 13.

She also got several movie offers. For FLT Films, she will do a project about an overseas Filipino worker, to be shot in the Middle East. She has another movie for FLT with **Piolo Pascual**.

Dina has an existing contract with Star Cinema, where she is slated to complete one more movie this year.

Under negotiation are offers from Maverick Films and Viva Films.

"I talked to (director) **Chito Roño** and told him I'm making movies again," Dina shares. "He said it was welcome news. He said, 'You should be an actress again. Stop hosting. We have so many TV hosts around.'"

Dina admits that after "D Day" aired its farewell telecast, she did not immediately decide to accept GMA 7's offer to star in a soap.

"Up to the last day of 'D Day,' I didn't know if I would do 'Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin' or move to another network which had a similar offer," Dina says. "But then I thought, it makes a lot of difference when you've been with GMA ever since.

"That same night, I told my manager I would do 'Ikaw Lang.' I signed the contract and taped the next day."

GMA 7, after all, had given her the big break on TV.

"GMA gave me the chance to be a host twice over, from 'Miss D' to 'D Day,'" she says. "When 'Ikaw Lang' was offered to me, I sensed the sincerity of the GMA people. I know they would really take care of me."

On her first taping day for the drama series, Dina was overwhelmed with the reception she received on the set of "Ikaw Lang and Mamahalin."

"Having you for prestige or hav-

DINA/ A29

BONNEVIE. Back to acting

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B1

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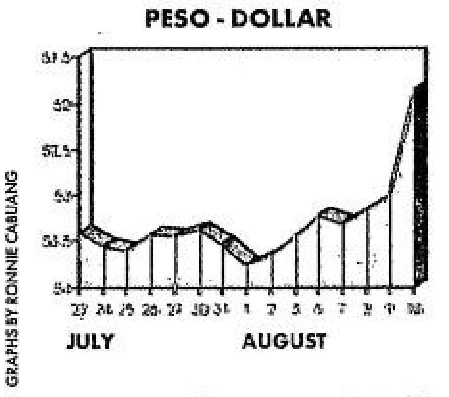


GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 51.85 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
August 10, 2001

¥ 121.94 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 121.94 as of 5 p.m., August 10, 2001

GOLD:$272.90/273.40
per ounce Hong Kong,
August 10, 2001

STOCK MARKET

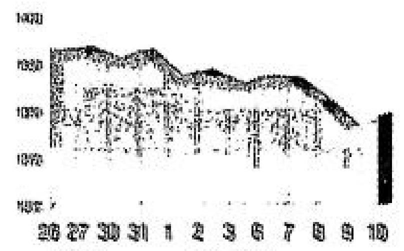
Stocks to rise

BARGAIN hunters are expected to lift the market this week as selected issues are near new lows.

The peso appreciation is also expected to help provide a more positive sentiment.

Analysts said, however, that investors would still like to see a more stable exchange rate.

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Banks offer idle lands for GMA's housing plan

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

LOCAL banks have proposed to sell to the Macapagal administration a portion of their foreclosed real estate assets worth more than P40 billion for development into low-cost and mass housing sites.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines presented its plan to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho last week.

"Their proposal is something we can consider but the important issue is the valuation," the finance secretary said.

BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said the banks wanted to sell to the government a portion of their foreclosed real estate assets in exchange for what he called "zero coupon bonds."

CAMACHO

Banks can sell these bonds to the market and the proceeds would be used strictly to finance low-cost housing projects. What is important for the banks, he said, was to be able to "liquefy idle assets" and, in the process, assist the government in its plan to pump-prime the housing sector.

He likened the plan to what asset management companies have been offering to do for banks. Foreign investment banks offering AMC services have proposed to buy the banks' non-performing loans and bad assets at a discount that can go as high as 80 percent.

However, Coronel said the banks were not keen on giving the government a discount for the buyout of the property assets.

"The property market today is already at a discount and the prices are at rock bottom," he pointed out.

Some quarters have criticized the plan of the BAP to sell its foreclosed real estate assets to the government, saying that the Macapagal administration was not in a position to "bail out" the banks.

Coronel argued that the proposal did not constitute a bailout. "We take on another risk because the proceeds will be used strictly to finance low-cost and mass housing projects," he noted.

The BAP official said the government need not pay in cash for the property assets. It could issue bonds that may even carry a long-term maturity of five years.

Coronel said it did not have to be the national government that had to issue the bonds. The government can direct other agencies, particularly the housing-related offices, to issue the bonds.

The BAP official said that once the property sector has recovered from the current slump, the government could even end up gaining on the value of the assets it had bought at "rock-bottom prices."

The banking sector is saddled with a rising level of non-performing loans extended mostly to crisis-struck sectors such as real estate and manufacturing.

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Garment exports down

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

EXPORTS of textile and garments, the country's biggest dollar-earner next to electronics, fell in the first seven months of the year as all of the country's major market slashed their orders.

The Garments and Textile Export Board reported that exports dropped 3.4 percent to $1.794 billion in the first seven months from $1.856 billion in the same period last year.

Sales to the US, which accounts for 76 percent of total exports, fell 1.13 percent to $1.37 billion in the first seven months this year from $1.385 billion.

The GTEB revealed that some of the big American buyers, including The Gap, have cut down their orders from the Philippines not because of weak demand but because they have shifted to other low-cost suppliers in Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Also, the GTEB admitted that the political crisis has spooked a number of foreign buyers from placing orders from the country. The GTEB said the "negative publicity generated by domestic events in the country over the last 12 months has affected the placement of orders this year."

The continued drop in US sales should make it unlikely for the Philippines to match its exports of $3.2 billion last year. The GTEB apparently misread the market with its ambitious 2001 target of $3.8 billion set early this year.

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Employers' big stake at SSS

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

EVERYBODY seems to think that only private sector employees comprise the membership of the Social Security System. Actually, there are four distinct groups of members. As of last March, the total membership of 23,313,899 was broken down into: employees (19,050,379 or 77.9 percent), self-employed (3,648,959 or 15.7 percent), pensioners (892,721 or 3.8 percent); and employers (614,561 or 2.6 percent).

Although the employers form the smallest group, they play the most crucial role in SSS operations.

First, since membership is compulsory, if an employer does not register with the SSS, he is depriving his employees of death, disability and retirement benefits under the law. He does not also give his employees the privilege of borrowing money, at below market rates, for emergencies, school tuition, and low-cost housing.

In fact, not registering with SSS is downright unpatriotic, as the employer does not contribute to the Investment Reserve Fund, which is needed for nation building. (That these funds may be misused by SSS is another story.)

To penalize the unregistered employer, the unpaid contributions are considered tax liabilities. The SSS has a thick (but not thick enough) file of employers sued and convicted as tax evaders.

Second, the registered employer does a lot of housekeeping work for SSS. He is the agent/collector of the employees' monthly contributions and loan amortization. He fills up the SSS-supplied collection report form that supports his remittance through accredited banks. He has to notify SSS of any hiring and firing. As the need arises, he issues certifications of employers' contributions.

To perform these housekeeping chores well, the employer then has to be thoroughly familiar with SSS administrative rules. Except for a small commission for collecting loan amortization, the employer does his housekeeping work, at some expense on his part, absolutely for free.

Third, and this is the most important, the employer pays out of his pocket 60 percent of the contributions, the employers' total share was about P18 billion. To the employer, this amount is pure expense; he gets nothing in return. All remittances are for and in behalf of his employees.

Because of the crucial role that employers play in SSS operations, three seats (this is not enough) in the Social Security Commission, the policy-making body, are reserved for the "employers' group." The law also specifies that at least one of these representatives must be a woman.

So, while SSS exists solely for the benefit of employees and self-employed, it is the employers who carry 60 percent of the load. It is a pity that, through the years, employers have been apathetic to whatever happens at SSS.

One would think that with so much of their money at stake at SSS, the high-powered and high-profile groups like the Chambers of Commerce, the Employers' Confederation and the Makati Business Club would show some interest on how their money has been invested and spent. So far, the employers have completely ignored the billions of pesos lost in crony investments, the excessive overhead, and the battalion of overpaid executives. What will it take to jolt them out of their apathy?

UK firm keen on Transco

NATIONAL Grid Plc. of the United Kingdom is aggressively pursuing its plan to bid for the concession rights of the National Transmission Corp., a source from Transco said Friday.

The source, who asked not to be named, said National Grid has been "very aggressive in pursuing the plan and has been asking questions" about the upcoming privatization of Transco.

"I think it is already undergoing a due diligence review," the source said.

National Grid was formed in 1990 in the course of the restructuring of United Kindom's electricity industry. It provides high-voltage transmission services and is regulated by the UK government.

National Grid has significant direct investments in the power industries of Argentina, Australia, the United States and Zambia.

The government hopes to generate between $2.4 billion and $2.7 billion from the privatization of Transco, which is mandated by the Electric Industry Restructuring Act.

The same law provides for the creation of Transco and its assumption of National Power Corp.'s transmission functions.

The law allows either the outright sale or a concession for Transco.

Earlier, the source explained that a concession was probably more attractive to investors because they would have lesser risks than buying Transco outright.

Also, the source pointed out that the Constitution limits a foreign company's ownership of a public utility to 40 percent.

"It would be hard to find a local company that would put up the capital for the remaining 60 percent," the source said.

In an earlier interview, Transco officer in charge Asisclo T. Gonzaga explained that in case of a concession, Transco would retain the systems operations function of the utility while the concessionaire would take over its assets.

A concession contract will be good for 25 years and can be renewed for another 25 years.

Gonzaga added that Kyushu Electric Corp. and Electic Power Development Co. of Japan were also interested.

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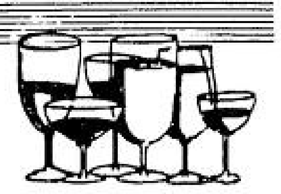
Mr. John's 75th

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

JOHN Gokongwei Jr. supposedly had no inkling of the large-scale preparations for the surprise celebration Saturday evening at the Gokongweis' Manila Midtown hotel to mark the taipan's 75th birthday.

"If he knows it, which I'm sure he does because no little detail escapes his eyes, he is keeping a straight face about it," eldest child Robina said Saturday morning.

(Because of the vagaries of editorial production, this column had to be submitted Saturday afternoon, hours before the actual event.)

According to the Gokongwei grapevine, President Macapagal-Arroyo has confirmed attendance to what promises to be the birthday party of the year. Taipan Henry Sy, daughter-heiress apparent Teresita Sy-Coson, and accounting guru Washington Sycip lead the Abu Sayyaf's dream list of attendees from big business.

And the list of Cabinet guests is enough to call a meeting of the Cabinet cluster committee on economic affairs.

Instead of a coffee-table book, the Gokongwei children have prepared a glossy magazine entitled "My Wei," chronicling the life and the up, up, and away fortunes of a Cebuano trader. Judging from a photocopy print of the cover page of a nattily suited 30-something birthday boy with a naughty wink as he held what looked like a bouquet of flowers, the magazine promises to be a riot, if not fomenting one within the closely-knit family.

In addition to the glossy, a video clip was scheduled to be shown, with Frank Sinatra's, what else but, My Way as background song, the lyrics changed to reflect the taipan's corporate and familial "weis."

We shall report on Wednesday if Mr. John ever disclosed to his well-wishers his secret to amassing, and keeping, billions.

But if we go by a comment from a corporate lawyer who has worked with him, the secret to Mr. John's success, in addition to sharp business sense, discipline, focus and hard work, is that the taipan definitely has "*may K—may kakuriputan.*"

Closet capitalist

BAYAN's Teddy Casiño may be a fire-breathing left-winger but when he needs to privately entertain guests or feels the need to recharge him-

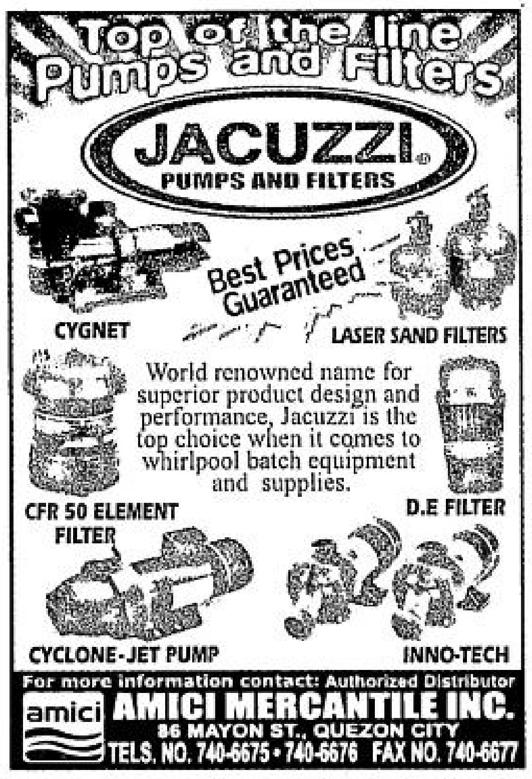
COCKTALES/ B4

Garment exports down

(From page B2)

Sales to Europe plunged 15.21 percent to $186.29 million from January to July this year from $219.701 million a year ago. Orders fell in Great Britain (down 4.3 percent to $65.908 million); Germany (down 31 percent to $42 million); Benelux countries (down 0.8 percent to $35.729 million); and France (down 25.52 percent to $18.588 million).

Shipments to non-quota countries likewise shrunk 8.37 percent to $196.046 million in the first seven months this year from $213.948 million a year ago.



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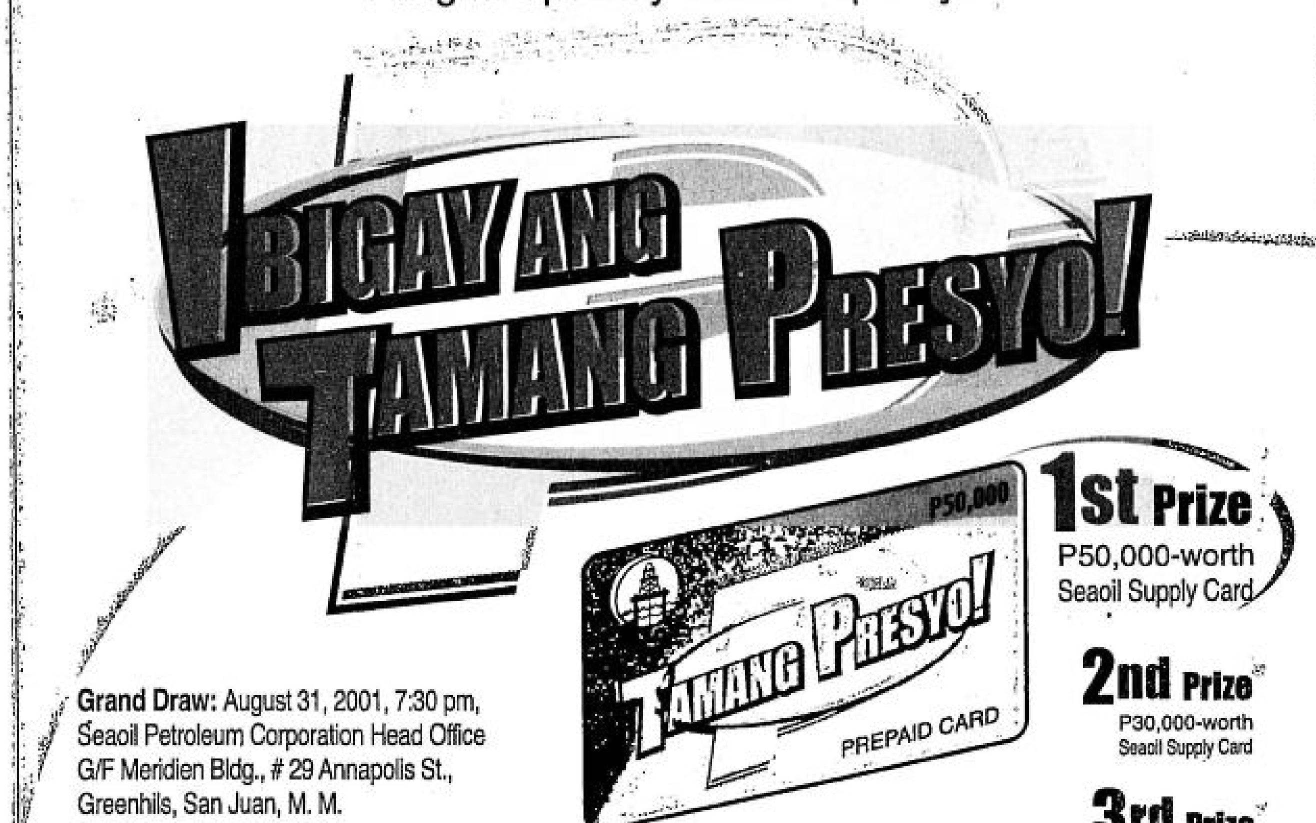

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3. I-fill-up lamang ang entry form na nasa ibaba nitong print ad. Ibigay ang tamang presyo ng mga Seaoil products na nasa coupon sa katabi nitong mga kahon, ang Seaoil station na pinagkunan ng presyo, at ang date ng presyo. Ilagay din ang inyong pangalan, kumpletong address, telephone number (kung mayroon), at lagdaan. Pagka-fill up ninyo ng raffle stub, gupitin at ilagay sa loob ng puting sobre kasama ang resibo (proof of purchase) at ihulog sa drop boxes na matatagpuan sa mga participating Seaoil stations.

4. May dalawang **Monthly Raffle Draws** na gagawin sa **June 30, 2001** at **July 31, 2001**, mula 3:30 pm, sa **Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office, G/F Meridien Bldg., # 29 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, M. M.**, sa harap ng isang DTI representative.

5. Ang mapapanalunan sa June 30 Raffle Draw at July 31 Raffle Draw per Seaoil station ay ang mga sumusunod na premium items per draw: 10 winners ng **Miyata Portable Radio**, 10 winners ng **Universal Robina Corporation** gift pack, 5 winners ng **4-liter Prolube DEO Turbo o 4-liter Prolube GEO Supreme**, 5 winners ng **Seaoil** gift pack. Ang entry na iyong hinulog ay maaari lamang manalo sa station na pinaghulugan mo. Idi-display ang winners ng bawat station sa isang billboard sa bawat Seaoil station. Lahat ng entries (kasali ang monthly winners at non-winners) ay maaari pang manalo sa susunod na monthly draw at sa Grand Raffle Draw.

6. Ang Grand Raffle Draw ay gagawin sa August 31, 2001, 7:30 pm, sa **Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office.**

7. Ang maaaring mapanalunan sa **Grand Raffle Draw** ay ang mga premyong: **Grand Prize—P50,000-Worth Pre-Paid Seaoil Card, Second Prize—P30,000-Worth Pre-Paid Seaoil Card,** at **Third Prize—P15,000-Worth Pre-Paid Seaoil Card,** at 2 **Consolation Prizes—1 Miyata Cyber-Karaoke Machine & 1 Miyata Pentium-Karaoke Machine.** Lahat ng mga premyong pre-paid Seaoil cards ay magagamit sa lahat ng Seaoil products at maaaring gamitin hanggang maubos. Ang lahat ng premyo ay hindi maaaring ipagpalit sa pera o cash. Ang lahat ng card prizes ay transferable. Ang lahat ng premyo ay libre rin sa buwis.

8. Ang bawat entry ay maaari lamang manalo ng isang beses sa bawat draw. Kung matatawag muli, makukuha niya ang prize na may mas malaking halaga.

9. Ang deadline ng paghulog ng raffle stubs para makasali sa Monthly Raffle Draws ay sa June 29 at July 30, 2001. Para naman sa Grand Raffle Draw, kailangang maihulog ang raffle stub sa August 30, 2001.

PAANO MAG-CLAIM? 'ETO!

1. Ang mga pangalan ng nanalo sa monthly stations raffle ay ilalagay sa isang board sa bawat station, at padadalhan din ng registered mail tungkol sa kanilang pagkakapanalo.

2. Ang mga pangalan ng nanalo ng Grand Raffle Prizes ay mababasa sa isang print ad sa tatlong major broadsheet na dyaryo at sa tatlong major tabloids. Ang Seaoil ay magpapadala rin ng registered mail sa home address ng bawat nanalo.

3. Sa pag-claim ng inyong premyo sa Grand Raffle, dalhin ang registered mail na natanggap ninyo at proper identification (tulad ng driver's license, company ID, o school ID). Ang taong may nakalagdang pangalan sa entry coupon ang siya lamang maaaring mag-claim ng premyo.

4. Makukuha ng mga monthly draw winners ang kanilang mga premyo sa **Seaoil station na kanilang pinaghulugan ng raffle stub.** Samantala, makukuha ng mga Grand Raffle Draw winners ang kanilang mga premyo sa **Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office, G/F Meridien Bldg., # 29 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, M. M.,** mula alas 8:00 ng umaga hanggang alas 5:00 ng hapon, Lunes hanggang Biyernes.

5. Ang lahat ng premyong hindi na-claim sa loob ng anim-napu'ng (60) araw mula sa pagtanggap ng registered mail ay matuturing na forfeited pabor sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation, subject sa approval ng DTI.

6. Walang empleyado ng Seaoil, ng mga participating outlets/stations nito, ng mga kasamang kompanya nito, ng kanilang mga suppliers, at ng Masterminds Asia Communications, kasama ang kanilang mga kamag-anak hanggang sa second degree of consanguinity or affinity, ang maaaring sumali sa promo na ito. [S]

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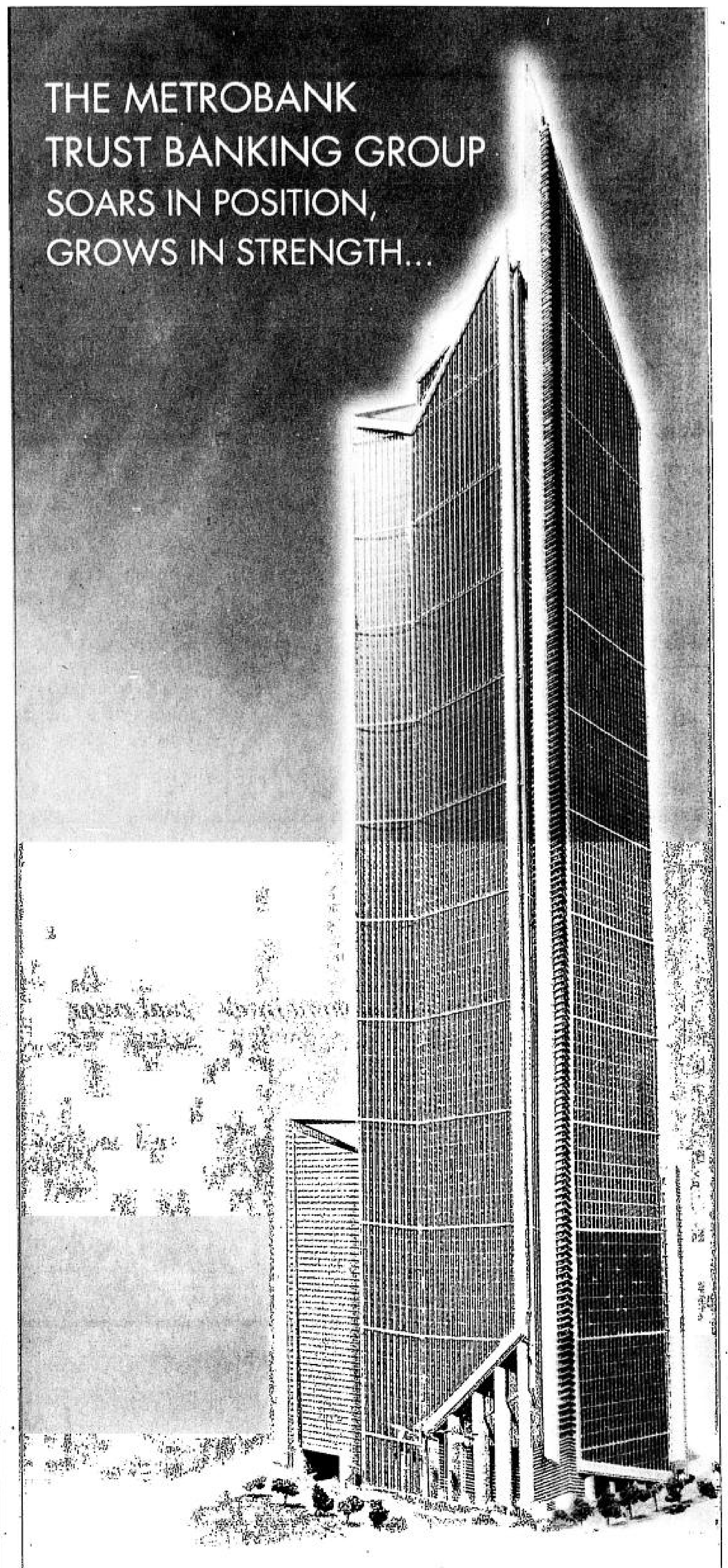

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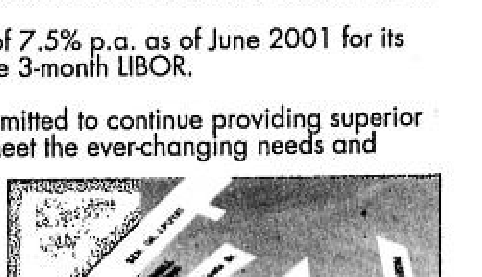

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PSE's dollar-denominated trading plan worries BSP

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is mapping out new measures to prevent its proposed dollar-denominated trading (DDT) facility from being an instrument of further speculative attacks against the local currency.

PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said the exchange would impose strict guidelines to ensure that the new facility would boost foreign exchange inflow instead of being used for dollar-salting or de facto currency conversion outside the banking system.

Garcia said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had expressed concern that the facility would be used for dollar-salting, since investors could trade in pesos in the morning and transact dollars in the afternoon. Monetary regulators were worried that there would be more dollar outflow than inflow should investors decide to buy in pesos and sell in dollars.

"To avoid opportunities for dollar-salting, for investors who will buy in pesos in the morning and sell dollars in the afternoon, they have to convert back into pesos what they sold," Garcia said.

On the other hand, investors who would buy in dollars could also sell in dollars, he explained.

The DDT aims to enhance the PSE's present trading infrastructure by allotting an extended off-floor trading session in the afternoon for trades of securities of Philippine companies that are also listed offshore. Initially, the DDT shall be restricted to trades of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Manulife Financial Corp. and Sun Life of Canada.

The offering of the facility aims to eliminate exchange rate volatility risks by enabling trades to be strictly denominated in US dollars, from actual trade execution to final settlement. It also seeks to introduce an attractive environment for cross-border investments in the country.

The facility has already been approved in principle by the Securities and Exchange Commission but has yet to be approved by the BSP.

"We are in discussions with BSP on how to address their concern on dollar-salting," Garcia said.

The BSP has cracked down on currency speculators, penalizing banks, which bought dollars without proper documentation to justify their purchases. The central monetary institution prescribes strict limits on the amount of dollars that can be bought without documentation in a bid to discourage the hoarding of dollars except for legitimate purposes such as importations or other corporate requirements.

Meanwhile, the PSE conceived the DDT in order to provide an additional market for its potential participants and thus help reverse the Philippine stock market's downturn and lack of volume.

During the first half of the year, the main-share PSE composite index opened at 1,448.49 and closed at 1,410.07, representing a 2.7-percent drop since the start of the year. Value turnover shrunk by 57.3 percent to P95 billion during the first six months of the year from P222.48 billion the same period last year. This meant that average daily volume had slowed down to only P772.6 million during the period from P1.77 billion in the same semester last year.

The poor market volume has squeezed the profit margins of brokerage houses, specially foreign-owned ones, which were paying for higher overhead costs. This year, several foreign brokerage houses have already shut down their Philippine operations, namely: Citicorp International Securities, BNP Paribas, Securities 2000 Inc., UOB Securities, Nomura Securities, Orion Squire Capital Inc. and OCBC Securities. Top broker Merrill Lynch has also decided to leave the local market although its Filipino management team decided to buy its seat and take over the operations.

Cocktales . . .

(From page B3)

self, the activist hies off to the Makati Sports Club right in the capitalist enclave of Salcedo Village.

Casiño, an associate member of the members-only club, is oftentimes seen at the Le Patisserie, the club's coffee shop, engaged in hush-hush talks with friends or at the gym, where he keeps fit for the rigors of rallies and marches.

Casiño became a club habitué by virtue of his father, lawyer Amador Casiño, the real shareholder, extending membership privileges to his son.

Mayo on military contract

RETIRED Lt. Gen. Victor Mayo, now deputy director-general of the National Security Council, said he is no way involved in the aborted test flight of a Singaporean spyplane as was reported in this column on July 30.

Neither is he involved with any group of military suppliers that had reportedly cornered P1.8 billion worth of business from the Armed Forces since he is still working for the government despite his retirement from being the chair of the AFP modernization board.

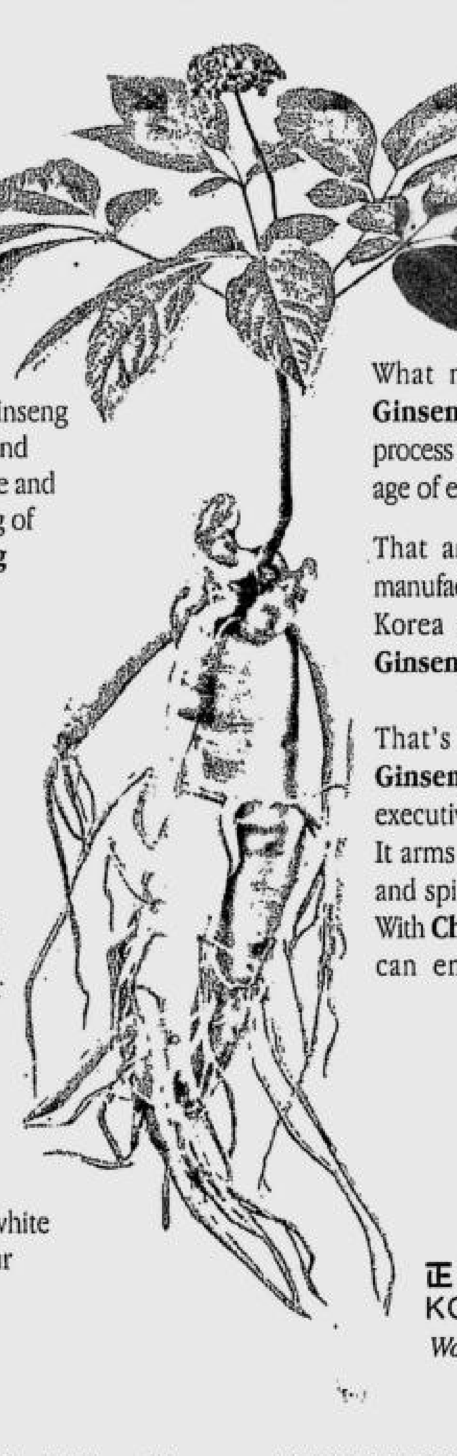
His association with businessman Jose Velisano came about because Velisano owns the Hot Rod and Sea Palace restaurants at The Fort, which have become convenient meeting places for Mayo's PMA classmates, who include retired Rear Admiral Johnny de Leon.

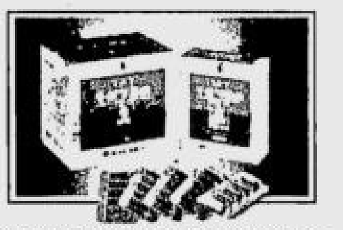
Heard through the grapevine

FORMER Estrada spokesperson Jerry Barican, who has been retained by the new administration as director of the Development Bank of the Philippines, is migrating to Spain.

Meanwhile, lawyer Antonio Carpio has decided to decline his government nomination to the Petron board just so he could keep his Sunday column in the INQUIRER.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)





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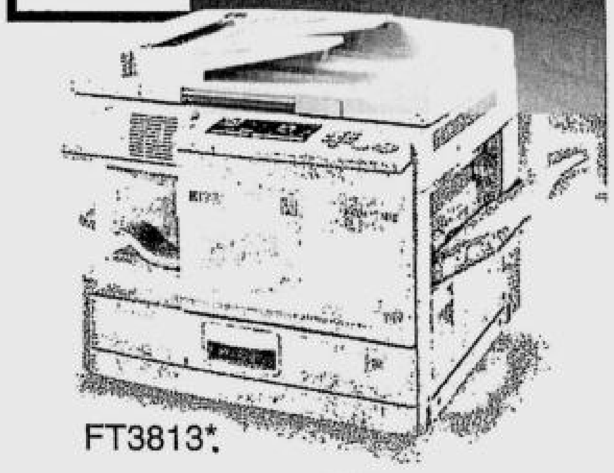

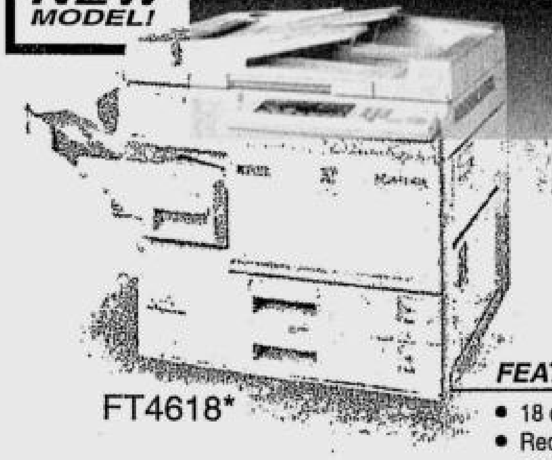

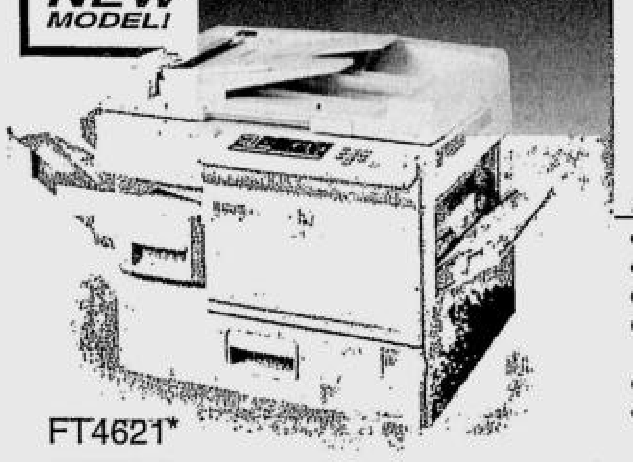

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The Philippine economic model

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

IF YOU find it coincidental the peso finally appreciating below the 53 level and the BSP levying fines against nine major banks for currency speculation, you are very naive. As I have been telling you the peso has been depreciating due to speculation, not market forces. Further, last Monday I mentioned that a Singapore currency trader recommended buying the peso above 53 and he has made a one peso profit this past week.

On the other hand, the stock market was firmly kicked in the stomach as foreign money fled for safer shores. After the debacle caused to the foreigners when Malaysia tightened currency transactions and movement, fear gripped these players as the President was in Kuala Lumpur. Prices did stage a rally at last week's close of trading. However, unless there is some strong follow through today, I would still forecast a move lower. The bright aspect, of which I am always accused of looking at too much, is that we retraced back to the price gap that occurred in November 2000. With that in mind, it is possible that a rally could begin. Fundamentally, we need interest rates to continue to remain where they are now. We need the peso to continue to hold firm and continue to slightly appreciate. And we need something out of Malacañang or the legislature that shows somebody, anybody, has fresh ideas to help economic growth. Well, two out of three is not bad.

When I was a boy, long before video games or even television in my family's case, we played Monopoly for entertainment. I thought at the time, this was the model for business and personal finances. As I grew up, I came to realize that Monopoly was no more an economic model than any other child's game. And through school I learned of other models, in politics, sociology, and economics, put together by experts. These models were supposed to explain why things happened they way they did and give guidance, that if followed, the world would be a better and more productive place.

Later I hit the streets of the real world and discovered all the models were at best, nice intellectual exercises, and at worst, deceptive, giving a false sense of reality.

The major systemic problem that I see with the Philippines, as embodied in the policies of the government, is that we are always trying to find the proper economic "model" based on someone else's experience. I think that is because we have too many US educated and trained people running the government. Although granted as the world's most formidable economy, every other competing nation has its own unique "model", separate and different from America's.

The President goes to Malaysia and hears Mahathir tell her how great their economy is, due to his "Malaysian Model". Of course, he fails to mention that Argentina tried it and is in worse shape than before they started. And for me, the key to Malaysia's success was that it was unique and different and "Malaysian". Although based on the Hong Kong currency/US dollar peg idea, Mahathir added an element of non-convertibility of Malaysian currency held abroad.

Now when it comes to politics, we know that we have to adapt to local rules and styles. When Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew criticizes "democracy" in the Philippines, everyone says "go back to Singapore—this is the Philippines". But not in economics.

Prior to the crash of '97, Thailand was held as the "model" of an up-and-coming industrialized nation that we should look to for example. Of course, no one mentions that their "model" of industrialization was paid for by 10 years of foreign currency inflow from sex tourism.

Agrarian reform in Taiwan, another great "model", was in part, forcing the indigenous Taiwanese landholders to give up their property to the newly landed mainland Chinese fleeing from Mao Zedong and the communists.

Please do not miss my point here. The above examples are not criticisms of what happened in Thailand or Taiwan. The point is that we seem to constantly look to other nations for economic answers. There does not seem to be any sort of "Philippine Model".

We write our securities law (which is economic, not political in nature) by Xeroxing that of the US even if our stock exchange has a completely different trading system. We push for "industrialization", the buzzword of the 80's and 90's, disregarding the fact that we are a scattered, island nation. We fund our government on a western style tax system, not admitting that there is something almost genetic in the Filipino that detests income tax like no other people on earth.

It seems as if every economic proposal we hear is based on some Cabinet member's junket overseas. Or from a US university economics course, which draws its model from a western economic revolution that occurred at the same time Jose Rizal was creating another type of Philippine economic revolution here.

I am waiting for one politician to come forward with an economic idea and say perhaps, "This proposal has never been tried anywhere else. But I believe that it will work for the Philippines." It would be a refreshing change from "This idea sort of worked in Botswana; let's try it here. What have we got to lose?"

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax Number 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

Insurance magnate to visit Manila

WILLIAM R. Berkley, founder, chair and chief executive officer of W.R. Berkley Corp., one of the United States' and the world's biggest property-casualty insurance holding companies, will be in Manila on Aug. 17-20 for a series of meeting with officials of Berkley subsidiaries and government officials.

Aside from W.R. Berkley Corp. with assets of over $5 billion and annual revenues of over $1.75 billion, Berkley also chairs many of the company's subsidiaries, including Berkley Dean & Co., an investment management company.

Berkley also founded a number of companies of which he continues to control or serve as chair or as director including several public companies. Prominent among these are companies in the banking, chemical, industrial distribution and fire protection industries.

He also served as director or adviser to a number of respected public and private companies.

W.R. Berkley Corp. is the parent company of Berkley Philippines-Family First Inc., a preneed and insurance company.

Yuchengco junks power project

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE YUCHENGCO group has scrapped plans to build a 40-megawatt biomass power plant in Bulacan worth around P4.3 billion after its US-based strategic partner Enron Corp. decided to pull out of the Philippines.

"We decided not to pursue that anymore," Alfonso Yuchengco III said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

"The original plan was to sell power to Meralco under a build-operate-transfer type of arrangement. But this is not feasible anymore because there's a lot of excess power supply," Yuchengco explained.

Yuchengco also said the group earlier planned to tie up with Enron in bidding for some of the assets of National Power Corp., which would be privatized by the government. However, since the Houston-based utility giant was no longer keen to put more investments into the country, the Yuchengco group has decided to likewise shelve this plan.

The Enron group operates one of the largest natural gas transmission systems in the world and is the biggest buyer and seller of natural gas and the largest non-regulated marketer of electricity in North America.

Enron was among the companies tapped by Napocor during the power crisis in the early 1990s to help meet the sharp growth in demand for electricity. It financed and constructed the 116-megawatt Subic Bay plant and another 110-megawatt Batangas facility. Its subsidiaries in the Philippines are Enron Development Philippines Ltd., Enron Subic Power Corp. and Ilijan Power Corp.

The Yuchengcos' listed construction firm, EEI Corp., was supposed to begin construction of the new Bulacan biomass power plant in partnership with Enron this year.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that Enron was planning to pull out not just out of the Bulacan power project but sell other existing businesses in the Philippines as well. Sources explained that the planned pullout had nothing to do with the country's political or economic situation, but was part of the Houston headquarter's decision to concentrate on more developed markets like North America and Europe.

After Enron disclosed its plan to phase out its investments, the Yuchengco group has said it would try to look for another foreign partner for the Bulacan biomass project but it still could not find one because of the difficult economic conditions in the country.

Yuchengco said the decision to scrap the biomass power project was prudent because it would have been difficult to recover their investments. Instead, he said the group would focus its resources on other less capital-intensive investments with high value added, such as information technology and education.

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Bargain hunting, peso rise seen to boost stock prices

By Doris C. Dumlao

BARGAIN hunters drawn by oversold stocks and the recent peso appreciation are seen to provide some relief to the local stock market early this week, although any technical rally is expected to be short-lived.

Hounded by the lack of positive surprises on second-quarter corporate earnings and the continuing scandals on the political front, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange slipped by another 2.56 percent week-on-week to 1,294.23 on Friday, breaching the 1,300 support level.

Bargain hunting started to lift stocks on Friday, however, following a sharp peso rebound. The local currency ended the week at 51.85: $1 after the crackdown by the central bank on speculators and the President's threat of a currency peg to quell such speculative attacks.

Mark Securities head of research Manuel Cruz said the market was still oversold, providing impetus for bargain-hunting to continue this week. However, he believed that after some technical rally, the Phisix would go down further to test the 1,239 support level.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said he was expecting a big market rebound at least for today, following the sharp recovery of the peso last Friday.

BPI Securities analyst Spencer Yap said: "We expect the market's decline to slow as we near support at 1250. Bargain hunting is expected to step up given the overwhelming attraction of the low prices of many major index issues."

"Investors may be inclined to overlook weak first-half results in favor of low share prices as well as prospective improved performance in the second half. However, pressure from foreign selling will remain a potent determinant of market performance," he said.

Renewed foreign selling pushed the market lower last week. Among the most battered stocks were Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., SM Prime Holdings Inc., Ayala Land Inc., La Tondeña Distillers Inc., Meralco A and B, San Miguel A and B, International Container Terminal Services Inc., Ionics Circuits Inc., Metro Pacific Corp., Equitable-PCI Bank, Fil-Invest Land and ABS-CBN.

RFM continued to hog the business headlines with the signing of a memorandum of agreement with SMC on the sale of its 83.2-percent stake in Cosmos Bottling Corp. Later in the week, RFM also confirmed talks with Vitarich Corp. for a possible merger with its poultry unit Swift Foods Inc.

Yap said the only major index issue that showed some improvement last week was Ayala Corp., which benefited from strong performances of Bank of the Philippine Islands and Globe Telecoms.

Stock market portal 2tradeasia.com said the market would continue to watch out for developments in the foreign exchange market this week to determine whether the peso recovery would be sustainable.

"The absence of major developments has affected the existing tension in the market, making participants apprehensive toward new economic reform schemes. While reactions to possible implementation of currency controls similar to that of Malaysia may abate, investors are looking for clarity on this issue from government's end, specifically on the adaptability of the scheme in the local arena. Although recent fiscal and monetary measures have so far been effective in quelling speculative attacks on the peso, the longevity of the peso's recent strength is another matter to consider," 2tradeasia.com said.

With no solid reason supporting the market's unabated descent, 2tradeasia.com said the bourse might benefit from intermittent relief in case Friday's optimism would prevail.

"The index might consolidate within 1270 to 1330, possibly with an upward bias up to mid-week, as investors reassess possible entry points in technically beaten large cap stocks in the market," it said.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, Aug. 10, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	61.5	61.5	61	61	122,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	33.5	32	33.5	14,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	210	210	208	210	55,220
Philippine National Bank	48	48	47.5	47.5	97,800
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	30	28.5	30	2,600
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	19	18.5	18.75	41,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1590	1590	1585	1585	5,640
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1290	1290	1270	1275	8,760
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	37	37	37	37	21,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.46	0.49	0.46	0.49	1,520,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	620	620	620	620	100
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	23,070,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	7,000
Piltel	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	210,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	570	590	565	580	94,010
Ivantage Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.033	82,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31.5	32.5	31.5	32	22,300
Manila Electric Co. B	38	38.5	38	38.5	2,076,300
Petron Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.8	3,334,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.84	1.86	1.82	1.86	765,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	270,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	1,405,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	51,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	11,600
RFM Corp.	2.34	2.36	2.32	2.34	668,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41.5	41	41	58,200
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54	53.5	53.5	244,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	600,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	1,679,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.52	105,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.02	1.04	1,097,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	220,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	12	10.5	12	700
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.25	1,700,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.78	1.7	1.78	1,406,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	650,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	30,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	26	27.5	26	27.5	53,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	284,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	145,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	670,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	2,950,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.8	3.85	3.8	3.85	10,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	1,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.225	1,690,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	150,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	23,000
Music Corp.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	19,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.9	2,180,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.83	0.83	0.81	0.83	180,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.54	860,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	290,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	250,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	30,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	37	37	37	37	5,000
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	510	510	510	510	130
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	10,300
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	37,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	78,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.6	4.65	4.55	4.6	10,716,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	230,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	650,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	1,487,000
City & Land Developers	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	30,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Primex Corp.	2.22	2.3	2.22	2.3	445,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6.2	5.9	6.2	3,313,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	1,200,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.048	0.049	0.045	0.045	21,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,220,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	64,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	40,000
OIL					
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	348,120	45,161,380.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	259,235,040	212,937,835.00
PRO	86,571,000	220,942,690.00
Mining	89,260,000	1,449,000.00
OIL	100,000	25,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	435,519,160	480,527,605.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	532.07	UP 0.87
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,819.48	UP 13.91
PRO	490.78	UP 16.03
Mining	1,241.68	UP 5.15
OIL	1.79	UP 0.01
All Shares Index	799.07	DOWN 1.48
Composite	1,294.23	UP 15.83

NO. OF ADVANCES: 31; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 35; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 89; NO. OF TRADES: 1,949

CURRENCIES

Aug. 10, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.120323	1.000000	53.0850
Japan	Yen	0.009210	0.008221	0.4364
United Kingdom	Pound	1.597580	1.426000	75.6992
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143648	0.128220	6.8066
Switzerland	Franc	0.663541	0.592277	31.4410
Canada	Dollar	0.728145	0.649942	34.5022
Singapore	Dollar	0.635464	0.567215	30.1106
Australia	Dollar	0.570923	0.509606	27.0524
Bahrain	Dinar	2.971836	2.652661	140.8165
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298736	0.266652	14.1552
Brunei	Dollar	0.628442	0.560947	29.7779
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000122	0.000109	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.024682	0.022031	1.1695
UAE	Dirham	0.305099	0.272331	14.4567
Korea	Won	0.000876	0.000782	0.0415
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.892600	47.3837
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.456379	24.2269
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136076	7.2236
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.405044	21.5018
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064868	3.4435
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022127	1.1746
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000461	0.0245
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150125	7.9694
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004452	0.2363
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005365	0.2848
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022127	1.1746
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.133368	60.1648

GG & A Club Shares

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	Please Call	1,850,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	-	800,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	125,000
Camp John Hay	Please Call	400,000
Canlubang	-	800,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	130,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	-	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	Please Call
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	100,000	110,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	220,000
Forest Hills "B"		250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	400,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	350,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	350,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	17,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	14,000,000
Manila Polo	3,300,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	800,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	850,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	150,000	-
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	170,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Corporate)	-	350,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	30,000
Mt. Malarayat	300,000	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	-	280,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	450,000
Philippine Columbian	-	85,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	170,000
Quezon City Sports Club	215,000	230,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	175,000	200,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,725,000	1,900,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,200,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	450,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	240,000
Tagaytay Country Club	-	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	900,000	950,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	800,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	185,000	200,000
Valley Golf	250,000	275,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	8,000,000	8,400,000

PLAYING RIGHTS
(Available Lessees)
Manila Golf 450,000

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	40,000	Mimosa Golf	20,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	20,000
Canlubang	70,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	30,000	Sta. Elena	65,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	65,000
Manila Southwoods	40,000	Tagaytay Mid.	40,000
Makati Sports "A"	35,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	500,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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Partial list 08/10/2001

CLUBS	ASKED Price
ALABANG "A"	1,800,000
CANLUBANG	865,000
CC @ TAGAYTAY	450,000
MAKATI SPORTS "A"/"B"	.43M/ 45M
MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	17,500,000
MANILA GOLF (INDV.)	14,500,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	850,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,300,000
MIMOSA (CORP.)	360,000
ORCHARD "A"/"C"	.28M/ 55M
PUNTA FUEGO	800,000
RIVIERA "A" / "B"	0.225M/0.425M
STA. ELENA "A"	2,000,000
SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP.)	Best deal
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	830,000

Share Swapping: Please Call

CLUBS	BID Price
ALABANG "A"	1,720,000
CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000
EAGLERIDGE "C"	400,000
MAKATI SPORTS "A"	375,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	900,000
MT. MALARAYAT "C"	Call now
PUNTA FUEGO	Call now
QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	220,000
RIVIERA "A"	200,000
STA. ELENA "B"	2,200,000
VALLE VERDE	180,000
VALLEY GOLF	275,000
WACK WACK GOLF	Call now

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	RIVIERA "A"	5,000
EAGLERIDGE	10,000	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
MANILA GOLF	500,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	35,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	Call now	WACK WACK	100,000

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BUYING:	
Alabang A/B	Please call
Baguio Country Club	725 000
Camp John Hay	330 000
Capitol Hills	130 000
Celebrity	200 000
Eagle Ridge A/B	350 000
Eagle Ridge C	650 000
Forest Hill A/B/C	240/250/400
Manila Golf (Indv. & Corp.)	13.5M/15M
Manila Polo	3 200 000
Manila Southwoods "A"	750 000
Manila Southwoods "B"	850 000
Mt. Malarayat "C"	620 000
Orchard A/B/C	250/350/500
Quezon City Sports	220 000
Sta. Elena	1,650 000/1 900 000
Tagaytay Highland Club	385 000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	910 000
Tagaytay Midlands	750 000
Valle Verde CC	175 000
Valley Golf	250 000
Wack Wack	8 000 000
SELLING	
Alabang A/B	1,750 000/1 900 000
Baguio Country Club	750 000
Calatagan A/B	100,000/120 000
Camp John Hay Golf	350 000

Canlubang Golf	800 000
Canyon Woods	280 000
Capitol Hills	130 000
Celebrity	205 000
Club Filipino	250 000
CC at Tagaytay Highland	395 000
Eagle Ridge A/B	400,000/550 000
Fontana A/B/C/D	Please call
Forest Hills A/B/C	240/290/450
Manila Golf (Indv. & Corp.)	14M/16.5M
Manila Polo	3 280 000
Manila Southwoods "A"	750 000
Manila Southwoods "B"	850 000
Makati Sports A/B	350 000/350 000
Metropolitan A/B	160,000/170 000
Mimosa/Luisita/Royale Tagaytay	Please call
Mt. Malarayat "A"	350 000
Orchard A/B/C	250/350/500
Quezon City Sports	240 000
Riviera A/B/C	200/350 550
Rockwell Club	600 000
Sta. Elena A/B	1,850 000/Please call
Sherwood A/C	200 000/550 000
Subic Yacht (Indv)	240,000/450 000
Tagaytay Club	395 000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	910 000
Tagaytay Midlands	780 000
Valley Golf	275 000
Wack Wack	8 100 000

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CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang A	1,750,000	Pls. Call
Baguio CC	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Capitol Hills	140,000	125,000
Camp John Hay	350,000	315,000
Canyon Woods	400,000	-
Celebrity Sports	205,000	190,000
The Country Club	7,000,000	-
Eagleridge-A	400,000	340,000
Eagleridge-B	550,000	500,000
Evercrest	130,000	-
Filipinas Golf	350,000	300,000
Fontana C	140,000	-
Fontana D	90,000	-
Forest Hills A	240,000	Pls. Call
Malarayat A	400,000	Pls. Call
Malarayat C		600,000
Manila Golf	14,700,000	-
Manila Polo	3,300,000	3,000,000
Manila Southwoods A	760,000	Pls. Call
Manila Southwoods B	870,000	-
Mimosa A	200,000	-
Mimosa C2	300,000	-
Orchard	300.00	Pls. Call
Riviera	250,000	-
Sherwood	250,000	-
Sta. Elena	1,900,000	1,800,000
Subic Golf	310,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay CC	415,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	780,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	Pls. Call	900,000
Tivoli Royale	230,000	Pls. Call
Valle Verde	190,000	-
Wack-wack	8,050,000	8 000 000

Playing Rights available lessor

Alabang	60,000	Tagaytay CC	40,000
Eaglerdge	50,000	Tagaytay Midlands	50,000
Orchard	Best Buy!	Tagaytay Highlands	50,000
Manila Southwoods	50,000	Wack-wack	90,000

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		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,900,000.00	-
2.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	800,000.00	-
3.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000.00	-
4.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	900,000.00	-
5.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB	-	350,000.00
6.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	135,000.00
7.	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	Please call	-
8.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	390,000.00	-
9.	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	380,000.00	350,000.00
10.	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	550,000.00	-
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13.	MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,000,000.00
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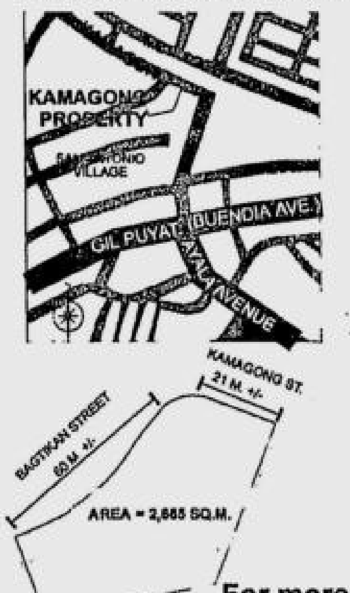

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BSP getting ready for drop in reserves

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is bracing for a $1-billion drop in the country's dollar reserves in case the export sector contracts by 10 percent.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters that exporters gave a mixed forecast of zero growth to a 10-percent contraction in their sector, but all agreed that the figure would ultimately depend on the state of the US economy.

Many economists believe a US economic recovery, however, will take longer to gather momentum than previously thought.

Economists had expected the US economy to begin recovering from its slump sometime in the second half of the year. But investment bank Goldman Sachs on Friday revised its growth forecast for next year down to 2 percent from 2.5 percent previously and said rates could keep falling until the middle of next year.

The BSP met with exporters to determine whether there was a need to adjust the country's targets in light of dwindling export receipts.

Buenaventura said there would be no need to adjust the country's balance-of-payment and gross international reserves targets should exports record flat growth by year's end.

Exports fell 25 percent in June, plunging to their lowest level in 20 years.

The government is anticipating a $1-billion balance-of-payments deficit and $14 billion in reserves in the event that the export sector post zero growth this year.

Balance of payments refers to a record of a country's international transactions and commitments.

With $14 billion in reserves, the country will be able to pay for four months worth of imports. The country's reserves stood at $14.315 billion as of last month.

The Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. believes a flat growth in export receipts this year will be offset by a growth of at least 5 percent next year following an expected economic recovery in the United States.

The United States buys about 30 percent Philippine exports.

Philexport president Sergio Ortiz-Luis said export earnings would rise slightly towards the fourth quarter, with orders coming in the third quarter.

This increase, he said, should allow the export sector to skirt a contraction and record flat growth by year's end.

Tough time still ahead for PNR

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE National Railways may have gotten out of some financial obligations last month with government intervention, but it is still looking at tough times ahead.

"Not many people patronize the PNR because of its old trains. This results to low revenues, hardly sufficient to cover operational costs," Transportation Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad told the INQUIRER.

The PNR receives a monthly government subsidy of P11 million apart from its monthly earnings of P8 million to P10 million, according to PNR general manager Jose Ma. Sarasola.

However, this is not enough to cover the P27-million monthly operating cost that includes salary, fuel and regular maintenance.

"We spend around P4 million a month for fuel alone. Another P20 million, at least, is needed for salary," Sarasola said in an earlier interview.

The PNR right now has almost 2,000 employees, most of whom are over 55 years old and have been with the PNR for over two decades.

Trinidad also said that railways needed regular maintenance checks that cost a huge amount of money.

"These have to be done daily, weekly, monthly and annually to ensure the safety of both the tracks and the rolling stocks," he said.

Sarasola said the PNR needed over P20 million a year for maintenance and spare parts.

He added that the PNR also incurred some P200,000 to P300,000 in additional expense because of the successive oil price hikes two months ago.

As of end-2000, the PNR reported a total of P310 million in revenues: P175 million are operating revenues while P135 million are government subsidies.

Total operating expenses, on the other hand, amounted to P445 million.

At present, the PNR has a P15-billion budget deficit. This includes debt servicing requirements of P730 million annually; unpaid bills for fuel, electricity and other utilities amounting to P12 million; and, unpaid obligations to suppliers and contractors worth around P80 million.

Some obligations are already about 10 years old.

Both Sarasola and Trinidad attribute the PNR's non-viability to the informal settlers living on almost all of the PNR's lands.

"We can't just drive the settlers away. We have to have a relocation site for them. Foreign lenders are always sensitive to the plight of the poor. Nobody will lend us money for the PNR if we can't provide the settlers with decent relocation sites," Trinidad said.

He added that if status quo would be maintained, the PNR may face eventual closure.

"If it were a purely business decision, I think that would be the most logical thing to do, but we have to consider the people, the employees as well as the riders," he said.

Right now, the government is still studying ways of improving the PNR's service.

"We've already conducted some initial studies of arrangements where the government will provide the tracks and the infrastructure while the private sector can step in for the rolling stocks. This was proposed one year or two years ago, but there hasn't been any final decisions yet," Trinidad said.

The Department of Budget and Management on July 9 programmed the release of P204 million, which came from the sale of 1,500 hectares of PNR properties. This amount was used as payment for PNR employees' much delayed salary differentials.

The government also absorbed almost P273 million in unremitted employees' premiums to the Government Service Insurance System.

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Nextel says no earnings for 3 more years

NEXTEL Communications Philippines Inc. said it would continue losing money in the next three years.

"Right now, we're still on investment mode. We're looking at another two to three years before we start earning," Nextel president Emilio Festejo told the INQUIRER.

He said this track record was usually the case with most telecommunication companies.

"Telecommunication companies have to really sweat it out for the first four to five years of business because this period is the build-out stage. We need to subsidize our handsets as well as put a huge amount of money for advertising and promotion," he said.

Nextel, a subsidiary of US firm Nextel International Inc., is just on its fourth year of business in the Philippines.

Festejo said issues being raised concerning Nextel's ownership structure and mobile phone network could further hamper its growth.

"With those problems now, we can't grow our business as much as we want. But with regard to all the issues being raised against us, I can say we've been in compliance with the law and any regulations," he said.

Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo Jr. is set to file this month a resolution asking Congress to investigate charges that Nextel was operating a cellular mobile cellular telephone system without a franchise from the government.

He earlier accused Nextel of exceeding the 40-percent foreign ownership limit set by the Constitution for public utilities.

Abigail L. Ho

SEC allows high-tech board meetings

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE companies can now hold "high-tech" board meetings through the use of video conferencing and teleconferencing, the Securities and Exchange Commission has decided.

In a meeting Thursday, the commission said it decided to move with the times by modifying its previous opinion requiring actual physical presence of directors or trustees during board meetings.

The SEC said Section 16 of the Electronic Commerce Act provided "no contract shall be denied validity or enforceability on the sole ground that it is in the form of an electronic data message or electronic document or that any or all of the elements require under existing laws for the formation of the contracts is expressed, demonstrated and proved by means of electronic documents."

The commission said it was of the opinion that the intended benefits of the provision might be made to apply to Section 25 of the Corporate Code, which conversely required the presence of directors in board meetings.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2232, Series of 2001

Indon cement grabs 35% of local market

INDONESIAN cement imports are now the biggest threat to the local industry having grabbed 20 percent of the market since last year.

The Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. said imports from Indonesia, which presently account for 53 percent of all imports, were brought into the country at an average landed cost of P52 per bag but were sold to consumers by importers and traders at P130 to P147 per bag or at the same price range as local cement.

Cement imports have now grabbed an alarming 35 percent of the market share, from only 1.4 percent in 1998.

There is no hope in sight for the cement industry unless the government imposes the safety nets the industry has applied for, Philcemcor said. It said the root cause of the dumping problem was the low tariff wall in the country. It claimed that the Philippines tore down its tariff walls way ahead of its neighbors.

Cement imports into the Philippines are subject to only 2 to 3 percent tariff compared to 20 percent in Cambodia, 50 percent for Malaysia and as much as 100 percent in Bangladesh. Malaysia also requires imports to obtain a sanitation certificate before they can sell in the Malaysian market that effectively blocks imports since local producers must approve the certificate. In Taiwan, non-tariff barriers in the form of a fixed commodity tax that accounts for approximately 40 percent of the export price is imposed on cement imports.

Philcemcor said that "the situation is critical since all cement producing countries in the region such as Indonesia, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and China have excess cement." Since the Philippines is the most vulnerable market, it will be the dumping ground of choice for all these excess cement the reason being that tariff and non-tariff barriers on cement are rising in other countries in the region.

Philcemcor also said that a Department of Trade and Industry ruling on their application for safety net of higher tariffs for 200 days would "decide whether the industry survives or collapses." According to Philcemcor, "DTI has to make the choice of whether to defend an industry that has substantial contribution to the economy in terms of investments, employment and the payment of taxes or sanctioning the continuing exorbitant profits of traders and middlemen who make a killing by bringing in dumped imports but charge consumers the same price or higher than local cement."

Among the foreign producers, Indonesian exporters have virtually no investments in the Philippines.

BOI allows APC to sell Rolls Royce, Bentley

THE BOARD of Investments has approved the application of Auto Prominence Corp., a firm with close ties to former President Ramos, to sell high-priced Rolls Royce and Bentley models in the country.

The BOI management committee approved the application of APC to register Rolls Royce and Bentley models under Category III of the Car Development Program.

The BOI approved APC's registration despite the company's mediocre performance in the automotive industry since the Ramos administrations

APC used to be known as Proton Pilipinas Corp., a joint venture between Peter Rodriguez and Diversified Resources of Malaysia, which was granted fiscal perks by the BOI during the Ramos administration to bring in semi-knocked down units of Proton from Malaysia.

The incentives were given on condition that the firm goes into full completely knocked down assembly within 18 months after bringing in the SKD units. The company, however, has not operated its assembly plant in Pangasinan and it could not be confirmed whether the firm was ever penalized.

APC took over Proton Pilipinas' registration under the Motor Vehicle Development Program after the latter ran into serious financial trouble after amassing P486 million in debts in the late 1990s.

Proton Pilipinas was registered to Proton, Volkswagen, Audi and Alfa Romeo models in the country but APC will only continue the Volkswagen and Audi lines.

The Rolls Royce and Bentley brands were acquired by Volkswagen in 1998 when the German carmaker beat its German rival BMW with its $795-million offer for the Vickers group's interest in the company known for its handmade cars worth at least $250,000 each (P13 million).

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Clark firms moving out, locators group claims

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Thirty-six business locators have closed shop in the last 18 months, while six more companies are planning to shut down their operations here.

This was disclosed Thursday by the Clark Investors and Locators Association (Cila) saying that its members had been frustrated by the "wonderful forecast" and promises of the previous Clark Development Corp. (CDC) management about the future of this economic zone.

Hans Axthelm, Cila president and chief executive of the Hansa Toy International, Inc., said many foreign and local companies here have been complaining that they were not getting a return on their investment.

"I have a list of 36 companies that actually closed their doors in the last 18 months and six others, including the largest exporters in Clark, that are in the process of or contemplating to move out," he said during a talk show here Thursday.

Axthelm said even some of the 12 commercial banks operating in the ecozone were set to move out of Clark primarily because of the government's failure to operate the Clark International Airport (CIA).

"Their (banks) operations at Clark is based on the premise that the Clark International Airport would be operational and it would generate extra customers," he said.

The 2,200-hectare aviation area of the CIA, including its parallel 3.2-kilometer runway, is one of the major facilities used by the CDC to attract foreign and local companies to invest here.

However, there are still no regular domestic and international passenger and cargo flights here. A portion of the aviation complex is currently occupied by the Philippine Air Force.

Axthelm said Cila supports the clamor of the Pampanga-based Pinoy Gumising Ka Movement (PGKM) for the opening of the CIA to local and international flights.

However, Axthelm said Cila members have agreed to first look for a meaningful dialogue with CDC management.

Axthelm also cited the case of the Taiwanese computer parts manufacturer Sampo Tech here which, he said, used to have about 1,500 employees and export some 2,000 containers until last year.

"Now it has less than 300 employees and exports less than 100 containers per month," he said. ***Jun Malig, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

MINDANAO PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

Philippine Business for Social Progress chair and PLDT president Manuel Pangilinan (4th from left) receives from First Philippine Holdings Corp. chair and CEO Oscar Lopez Sr. (5th from left) the company's P3 million donation to the recently-concluded President GMA-PBSP Cup. With them are (from left) PBSP vice chair Jesus Tambunting, PBSP president Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, PBSP trustee Ricardo Pascua, former President Corazon Aquino and PBSP treasurer Ramon del Rosario Jr.

BOI junks plan to allow 'soft' CKD importation

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments has abandoned a plan to allow luxury vehicles assemblers to bring in "soft" completely knocked down (CKD) units at substantially lower duties even without a commitment to go into full assembly.

A source said the BOI junked the plan due to strong opposition from existing assemblers, who poured billions of pesos to expand their factories, and the projected adverse impact of such a move on government revenues.

The source said the decision was reached when it rejected Asian Carmakers Corp.'s proposal to bring in soft CKD units of BMW sedans in lieu of its commitment to go into full assembly of the luxury vehicles in the country.

The source said ACC would have to refund the government all the discounts it obtained by bringing in BMW units at preferred duties of 10 percent versus the 20 percent tariff on completely built up units.

The BOI gave serious study to the proposal to allow the importation of vehicles in soft CKD version—units that are either unpainted or not yet welded—to enable assemblers to maximize their factories that have been idled by the steep plunge in sales in the last few years. Based on the proposal, soft CKD imports would be limited to luxury sedan makers because their limited volume does not justify full assembly operations.

The BOI felt that soft CKD units were preferable over semi-knocked down units (vehicles without tires or batteries) because assemblers would have more value added in their output such as painting and welding. The BOI said this would enable the assemblers to maximize capacity and re-hire some of the workers they laid off since the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

The BOI had stopped granting preferred duties to SKD imports, which meant that they have to be levied 30 percent duty or the same as that on CBUs.

6 groups to bid for Leyte-Bohol deal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Power Corp. has prequalified six groups for the bidding next month of the P2.1-billion completion stage of the Leyte-Bohol interconnection project.

A Napocor source said the prequalified bidders were ABB Transmission and Distribution (Sweden), Larsen & Toubro (India), Xian Electric Machinery and Partners (China), the group of Jyoti Structures Ltd. (India) and Black & Veatch International (United States), the consortium of Kanematsu Corp. (Japan) and Hyundai Engineering (South Korea), and the group of KEC (Indian) and Alstom (France).

The source said Napocor has forwarded the list last month to Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the financier of the project, which has yet to approve the list.

The completion stage of the Leyte-Bohol interconnection project involves the installation of steel towers for 138-kilovolt transmission lines between Ormoc City and Maasin town in Leyte, which are 130 kilometers apart.

Napocor, according to documents obtained by reporters, is scheduled to hold the bidding for the project in September while construction will start by March next year.

The substations in Maasin and in nearby Ubay town will also be expanded to accommodate the upgrading of the interconnection facilities to 138 kv.

The first stage of the project, costing P2.3 billion, involved the laying out of four 138-kv submarine cables that traverse the waters between the two island provinces.

The consortium of Kanematsu Corp. and Nissho Iwai Corp. of Japan was the contractor for Stage 1.

Stage 1 allowed the delivery of 17 megawatts of geothermal power from Leyte to Bohol, but power transmission was limited to 69 kv.

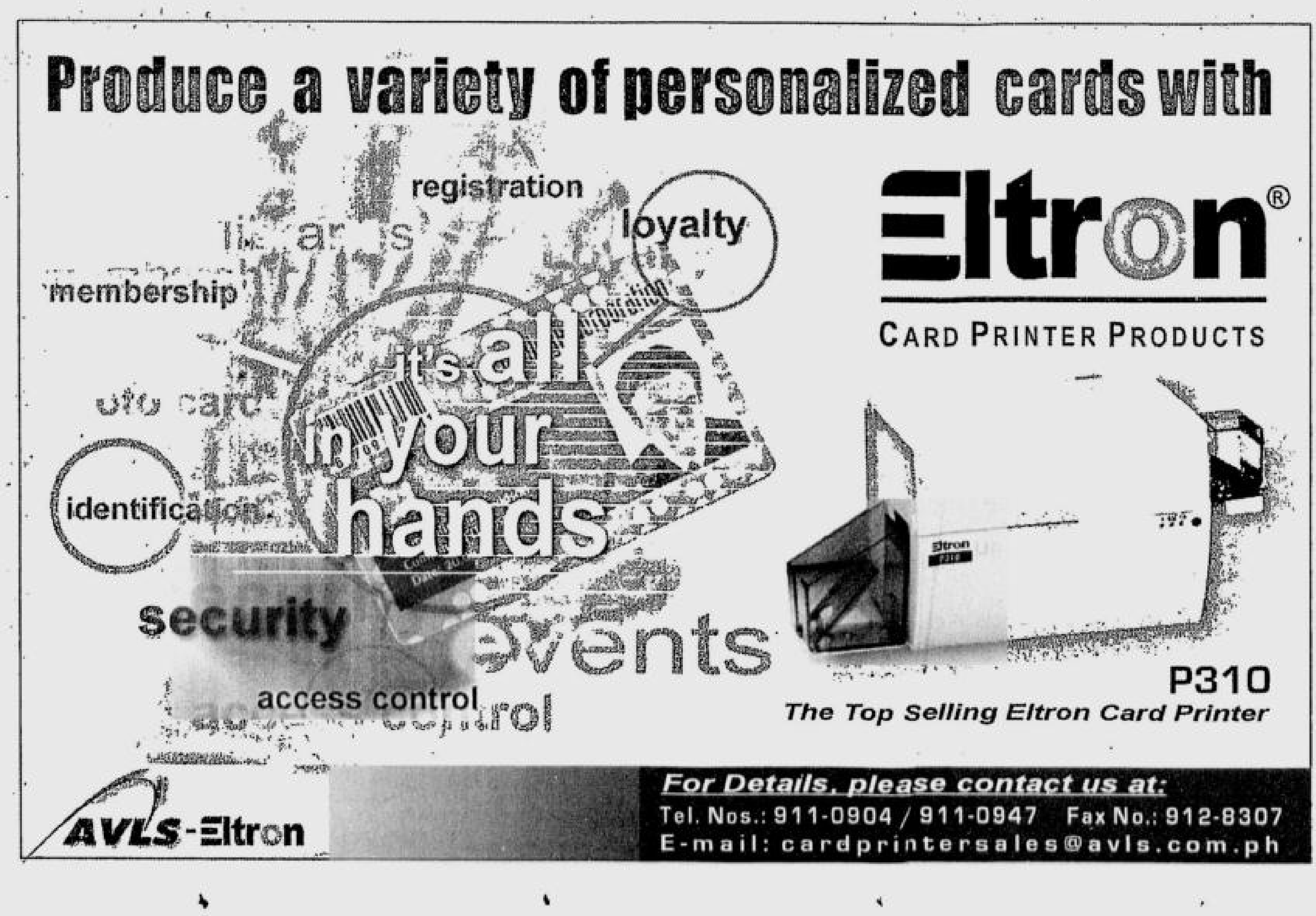
Through the upgrades in Stage 2, the interconnection facilities will be able to accommodate 86 mw at the 138-kv transmission level.

Serving as the consultant for the entire project is the Electric Power Development Co. of Japan, which was reported to have signified interest in the forthcoming privatization of the National Transmission Corp.

The Leyte-Bohol interconnection, expected to be finished in April 2003, forms part of Napocor's efforts to integrate all the electric power grids of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The state firm has completed the interconnection of Leyte and Samar in 1983; Negros and Panay in 1990; Negros and Cebu in 1993; Leyte and Cebu in 1997; and Leyte and Luzon in 1998.

Also forthcoming is the Leyte-Mindanao interconnection, which is targeted for completion in 2004.



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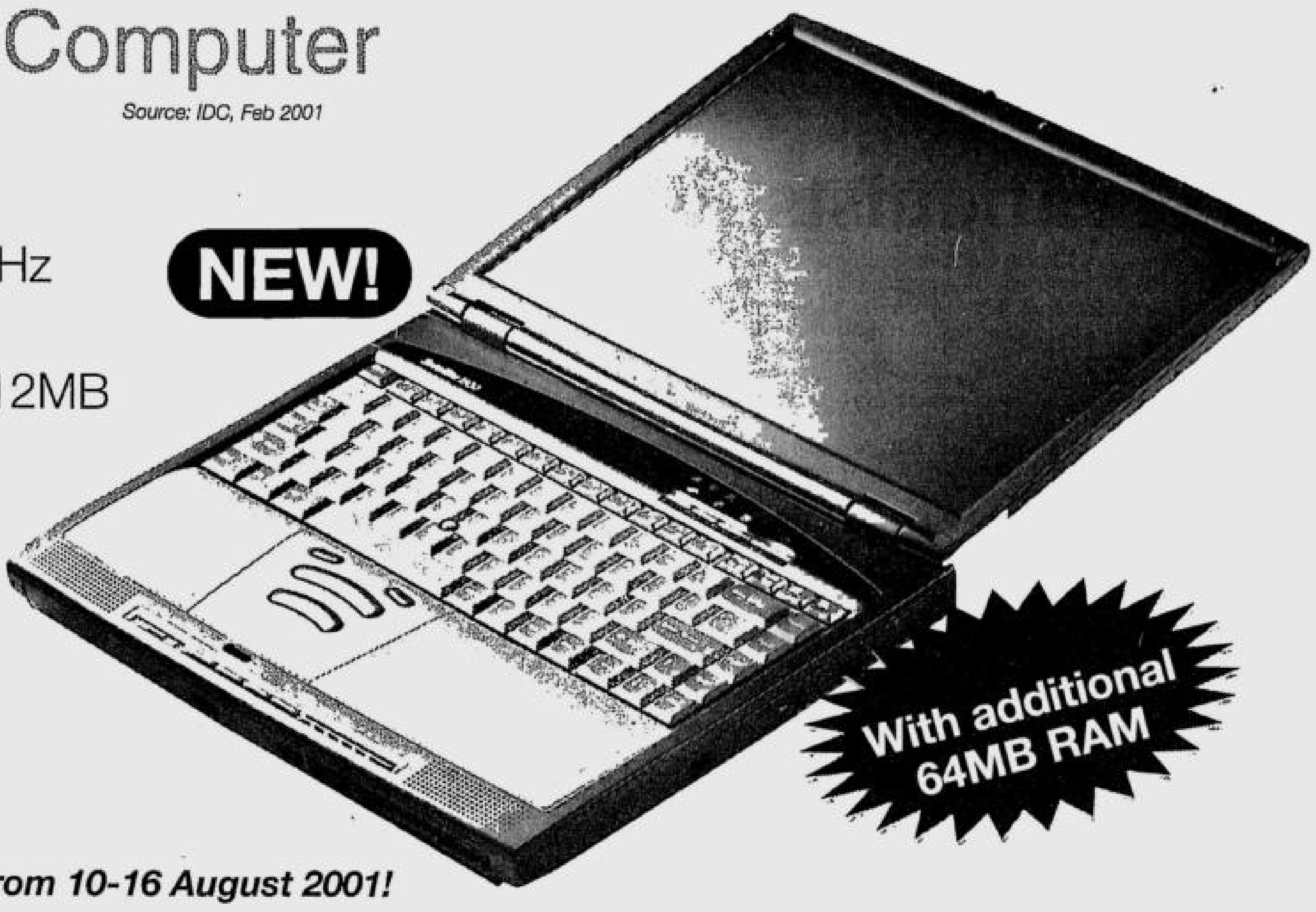

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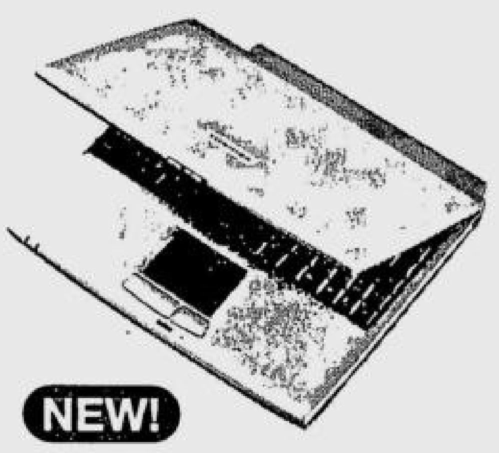

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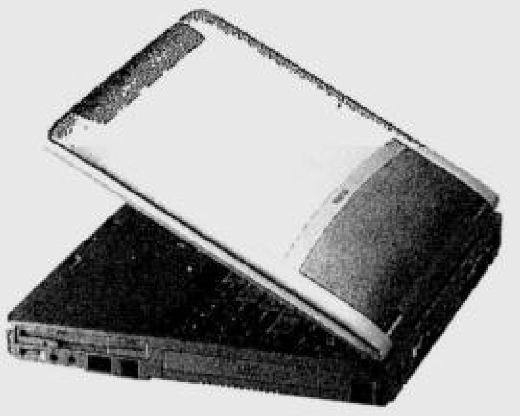

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BLEAK OUTLOOK

IMF forecasts Japanese recession this year

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund on Friday issued a bleak outlook for the Japanese economy, forecasting a recession there this year that could worsen the economic downturn gripping the global economy.

In its annual assessment of Japan's economy, the international lender forecast economic activity would contract by 0.2 percent this year, down from an earlier forecast of growth of 0.6 percent.

Furthermore, the IMF said it was "concerned that Japan could re-enter a cycle of slowing activity, rising bankruptcies and a deteriorating banking system, which would, in turn, exacerbate the global downturn."

The Washington-based lender also forecast inflation of minus 0.7 percent and unemployment picking up to 5 percent from 4.7 percent last year.

While the report laid out a laundry list of reforms Japan needed to bolster its flagging economy, the IMF offered some soothing words. It said the government's planned actions to revitalize the economy, improve the financial sector, undertake fiscal reforms and accelerate structural polices were "an excellent basis for action."

On monetary policy, the IMF's board of directors were split. While most directors suggested the Bank of Japan ease monetary policy, some were skeptical about the effectiveness of such a move in light of already high liquidity in the banking sector.

"While directors welcomed the Bank of Japan's new monetary policy framework, most directors thought that the present policy stance was unlikely to eliminate downward pressure on prices within a reasonable time frame," the report said.

"Most directors, therefore, suggested that the BOJ should not delay in raising its quantitative target for current account balances, while being prepared, if necessary, to increase purchases of longer-term government securities to meet the higher target," the report said.

But some directors were "skeptical about the effectiveness of a further easing of monetary policy."

The IMF noted that an easier monetary policy stance could further weaken Japan's yen currency, but a depreciation could help the economic recovery there.

And while the region is better placed to withstand such a depreciation than during the Asian crisis of 1997-1999, some IMF directors fear that a persistent depreciation of the yen could damage the region's prospects.

The IMF said fixing problems in the banking sector, swamped under a mountain of bad loans, was "key to restoring healthy growth in Japan," adding it would require vigorous implementation of previously announced measures.

Most IMF directors believe targeted capital injections may be needed to offset the impact of more aggressive provisioning and loan disposal on bank capital. *Reuters*

Conservationists fight for WWF name

LONDON—In the great WWF name battle, the panda body-slammed The Rock.

The World Wildlife Fund, best known for its efforts to protect the giant panda and other endangered animal species, won a judgment Friday against World Wrestling Federation Entertainment Inc. over the use of the initials WWF.

The decision from the High Court in London curtails the ability of the wrestling group to promote itself and will force it to abandon its Web address. The Stamford, Connecticut-based company said it would appeal.

Justice Robin Jacob ruled that the wrestling group had breached a 1994 agreement between the two sides that limited its use of the initials.

In a written judgment, Jacob said it was understandable the fund did not want to be associated with the wrestling group. "Some would say its (the federation's) glorification of violence is somewhat unsavory," Jacob said.

Jacob acknowledged it might cost the federation, famous for muscle-bound wrestlers such as The Rock and Undertaker, up to $50 million to change its logo but said some of its arguments in court had been "hopeless" or "astonishingly poor."

The wildlife fund argued that worldwide exposure for wrestling had increased due to television and the Internet, leading to more widespread use of the initials by the federation. The two sides had almost identical website addresses.

The wildlife fund also accused the wrestling federation of breaking their agreement and filed a lawsuit seeking enforcement of its trademark rights.

Jacob said the wrestling organization would be permitted a limited use of the initials in the United States but would no longer be able to use its wwf.com website address. The wildlife group has wwf.org.

Anita Neville, spokesperson for the wildlife fund—known outside of the United States as the Worldwide Fund for Nature—said the judgment "means that our name and reputation is upheld."

"We are a global organization relying on donations, and we wanted people to be able to give donations in confidence," Neville said. "The initials are vital to our organization."

The wrestling federation expected the decision based on the judge's comments during oral arguments, said spokesperson Judd Everhart.

"We're not surprised by today's ruling," Everhart said. "But we think it's erroneous and we intend to appeal."

Everhart said he was not sure when the appeal would be filed. He was not sure what action the company would take regarding its website, though it remained active Friday.

According to the written judgment, the fund initially had no objection to the wrestling group using the initials, as its activities were "broadly confined to the US until the late 1980s." *AP*

US key rate cuts seen extending to next year

NEW YORK—The Federal Reserve's interest rate cuts could extend into next year because an economic recovery would likely take longer to gather momentum than previously thought, leading Wall Street firms said this week.

Economists had expected the economy to begin recovering from its slump sometime in the second half of this year and interest rates to start heading higher in the first quarter of next year.

But investment bank Goldman Sachs on Friday revised its growth forecast for next year down to 2 percent from 2.5 percent previously and said rates could keep falling until the middle of next year.

Goldman last week predicted the Fed would cut the 3.75-percent federal funds rate on overnight bank lending to 3.5 percent by the end of the year.

Updating its forecast on Friday to reflect new data pointing to persistent economic weakness, Goldman said it now saw fed funds falling to 3 percent by the middle of next year.

"The driving force behind these changes is the revelation, in revisions to the national income and product accounts, that corporate profits have been a lot weaker in recent years than previously thought," the firm said in a research note.

"That means the return on capital has also been lower, dimming the outlook for business investment."

The Fed has already slashed the funds rate by a total of 2.75 percentage points in six rate cuts since the beginning of the year. It is widely expected to make another quarter-point reduction at its next meeting on Aug. 21.

Earlier this week, former Fed Governor Wayne Angell predicted the Fed would cut rates two more times this year and twice early next year, bringing the funds rate to 2.75 percent by the end of the first quarter of 2002.

"It also appears that the third quarter is starting on as a weak note as the second quarter ended on," Bear Stearns said, adding there could be a contraction in this quarter.

Angell predicted the overhang of capital equipment would result in sub-par growth rates over the next year. *Reuters*

Intel CEO sees pickup in computing

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado—Computer shipments should improve later this year, but telecommunications equipment sales would probably not step up until late 2002, Intel Corp. chief executive Craig Barrett said Friday.

"Computing is more stable. We can expect some improvement in the second half (of 2001), but communications is still in the sick bay. Overinvestment will take a year to wear off," he told the Colorado Technology Summit.

Barrett did not speak specifically about the near-term outlook for Intel, the world's largest semiconductor maker.

He said telecom companies traditionally spent about 17 percent of revenues on new equipment, but the figure spiked last year to 35 percent. "It was unprecedented and unsustainable. It will be the end of 2002 before the sector starts to grow again," he said.

He said the US economy was probably "more than halfway through" the current economic slump and one bright spot he saw was that other industries, such as autos and consumer goods, did not appear to be very hard hit.

If Barrett was nervous about how back-to-school computer sales would fare, he wasn't showing it at the conference, attended by 2,200 business and education leaders, and hosted by Colorado Gov. Bill Owens.

"The Internet is not slowing down even in the midst of this telecommunications slowdown," Barrett said effusively, as he urged people in the audience to take more interest in education, especially math and science.

He decried the fact that US youngsters held their own in math and science until they were about 10 years old, but fell behind children in other countries as they grew older.

He said 500 million people were connected on the Internet and 1 million new auction links were posted on eBay everyday. But he said the $12 million of retail shopping on the Internet every day was still very small, paling in comparison to even Intel, which did $60 million of business everyday on the Internet with its customers. *Reuters*

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IMF, World Bank cut back annual meeting

WASHINGTON—Security concerns have prompted the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to sharply scale back next month's scheduled meeting in the US capital.

The two lending organizations said in a statement Friday that their annual autumn meeting would be confined to the weekend of Sept. 29 to 30. Originally, they had planned to meet a few days before that weekend and conclude on Oct. 3.

The IMF and World Bank said they "fully share the interest of the US authorities" in ensuring the least possible disruption to the people who live and work in Washington.

Protests in connection with the meeting had been planned for Sept. 28 through Oct. 4, and Washington police had been preparing a massive security operation. Officials said they were expecting as many as 40,000 demonstrators. *AP*

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Industry Update: Trends and Innovations *(11 Country Reports Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Korea, Japan, China and Canada)*
Economic Prospects of Asia Pacific Economics in the Medium Term
Franchising in Europe
Franchising in Latin America
How to Expand Your Franchise Network

SEPTEMBER 14, 2001 (Friday)
Makati Shangri-la Hotel
Global Trends and Innovations
Franchising Industry in the U.S.
Voices Experience: From the "Masters" of Franchising
Franchising as a Tool for Economic Development
Roles of Franchisors in the Shopping Mall

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INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

The personal computer celebrates its 20th birthday this August. On Aug. 12, 1981, the IBM 5150—the first ever PC—was introduced to the market. For this occasion, Microsoft Corp. chair and chief software architect Bill Gates gave the INQUIRER this exclusive article about the PC's 20th anniversary, courtesy of Microsoft Philippines.

The PC: 20 years young

BY BILL GATES

IT'S hard to believe that it's been two decades since the launch of the first PC, and even harder to believe how much things have advanced since then.

Twenty years ago, the typical PC had a monochrome screen, modest floppy-disk drive and only 64,000 bytes of memory. Today, the average PC is a desktop supercomputer. Back in the early 1980s, even the idea of a "personal computer" was a novelty. For many people, computers were just too intimidating—they were difficult to set up and maintain, and most of the programs they ran were slow and hard to use. Few people saw a computer as an essential part of their everyday life.

Today, the PC has gone mainstream. More than 500 million PCs are in use around the world, and another 140 million will be sold in 2001—far more than the number of TVs that will be purchased this year. Today's PCs are inexpensive, powerful, reliable and simple enough for almost anyone to use. Great productivity software has made the PC an indispensable tool for business, and it's easier than ever to use a PC to manage finances, do the family shopping or keep track of the household schedule.

PCs have revolutionized the way we live, work, learn and play, and transformed how we communicate with each other. They have empowered people to be more creative and businesses more efficient, opened up amazing opportunities for education, and helped stimulate productivity worldwide. Combined with inexpensive, widespread Internet access, they've helped news and information travel faster and more freely than ever before, and broken down borders between nations, people and economies. So it's no surprise that more than half of PC users now consider it the most important device in their home.

When I first started using personal computers, I was amazed and inspired by what they could do—and by what they might be able to do in the future. But what's even more amazing is that, even now, we are a long way from exhausting the PC's potential. Today, I'm as excited as I've ever been about the PC—we're at the start of a wave of digital innovation that will create plenty of new, exciting ways for computers to enrich our lives.

The PC is fast becoming something that's always on and always connected to the Internet, making it easier for people to rely on them for more of the things they do every day, from reading the news to listening to their favorite music. Powerful Web services are making it easier for people to manage their lives and get access to the information they need, from their home PC or any other smart device.

At the same time, cheap, high-capacity disk drives and easy-to-use digital cameras are making it possible for people to easily store and share a lifetime's worth of digital photos and video on their PC, while powerful audio and video capabilities are transforming the PC into an entertainment center for the home. Not only is today's software more powerful and easier to use than ever before, it can also maintain itself by finding and fixing problems without the user even knowing about it.

In this article exclusive to the Inquirer, Bill Gates tells us why the PC is not going away

The result is that the PC is moving to the center of an ever-expanding network of smart, connected devices, from mobile phones to televisions and handheld devices—even household appliances. Using a PC will still be the easiest way to write a letter, balance an investment portfolio or browse complex websites, but the information people need will be available wherever and whenever they need it.

If you're shopping for a new car, you'll be able to find the best price—and even check your budget to make sure you can afford it—right at the dealership, on your handheld device. Families will be able to make vacation plans on their home PC, then update them on the road. And students will be able to do their homework in the living room, then take it into class on a tablet-sized PC that's as flexible and easy to use as a paper notebook.

Some of these great innovations are available right now, and some are just a few years away. In the coming decade, the PC will continue to become more powerful, less expensive and even more essential—probably the most important tool people use to work, play and stay in touch. And I'm confident that we won't run out of new things to do with the PC any time soon. If the past 20 years have been impressive, the next 20 will be astounding.

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NexC taps local I.T. talent with Northgate CyberZone office

The wealth of local talent in information technology was one of the major factors for NexC's decision to establish its third global branch in the Philippines, specifically in Alabang's Northgate CyberZone (NCZ).

According to NexC General Manager Joi Natividad, the NexC Philippine office will serve as the company's information and research center and as an official back-end support to its other offices in Hong Kong and Austria. It initially houses NexC's departments such as the editorial, creative, telesales and marketing, career management, customer service, data management, and information technology team. These divisions spearhead the implementation of NexC's business expansion plans that would eventually include e-commerce, publishing and data management.

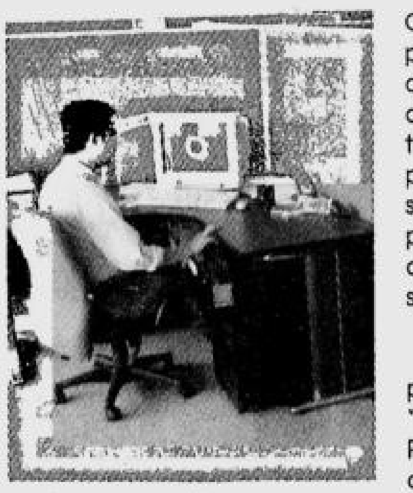
Since its inception in 1995, NexC has been at the forefront of establishing a global communications network that caters to the specific requirements of the hospitality, travel, trade and tourism industries, as well as hospitality-related educational institutions.

"NexC provides these sectors with a common virtual platform that allows establishments, companies, and individuals to interact as well as dynamically exchange information and services. We set up the infrastructure for which this community can flourish and build its worldwide knowledge base," Natividad explains.

Using the Internet as their predominant medium, NexC offers a suite of services and features geared towards nurturing business relations and people in the specified industries. Among these are membership in an exclusive NexC club of industry professionals and executives, job search service, virtual shopping mall and a multi-service station that offers everything a person will ever need to set up and run his own virtual office. As part of this service, NexC will also publish various directories on trade organizations, cruise lines, media, trade shows and educational institutions worldwide to provide detailed and comprehensive information to its target market.

NexC leads Northgate CyberZone's first batch of locators engaged in software development, data center operations, and other technology-based activities. Natividad relates that like any company starting out, NexC is still undergoing growth pains but the company believes that putting up the office in NCZ is a sound decision that stems from a number of factors.

"Geographically, we feel that the place is conducive to creative thinking. The wide-open spaces, particularly the greenery surrounding us, is the kind of environment we feel will complement our drive to excel. Strategically, we feel that Alabang will be the next boom city in Metro Manila and one that pays respect to environment," she adds.



Natividad also cited other advantages of locating in Northgate CyberZone. "The facilities are at par and its proximity to the NAIA helps us a lot because our expatriate officers visit us frequently. It is one of the few areas that have paid attention to details and put a sound infrastructure in place, which will surely make this city a showcase for other areas to follow suit. It also presents a picture of the way the Philippines could and should be - an excellent choice to set up business."

Most importantly, NexC believes in the potential of Filipino knowledge workers. "According to our President and Founder Josef Paier, out of all locations, the Philippines offered the best choice in having both a pool of talented and multilingual people that are among the best in the world when it comes to customer service and they will play a vital role in our people's network," she explains.

Sharing her thoughts on being the zone's first locator, Natividad says, "At NexC we are proud to be one of the first companies to lead the drove of the eventual migrants here. We want to show other international companies that we believe in the future of this country."

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Personal computing in the last 20 years

BY LEO MAGNO

IN THE EARLY '80s he said: "640K (of memory) ought to be enough for everybody." In the early '90s he said: "The Internet is just a fad." Today, he's the richest man in the world.

I'm talking about this software salesman from Seattle named Bill. This guy's had several foot-in-mouth statements in the last two decades, and they're all right up there in the ranks of: "There is no reason anyone would ever want a computer in their home," which was uttered and later regretted by Ken Olsen, founder of Digital Equipment Corp., inventor of the midrange computer.

Not that we mean to poke fun at Gates and Olsen. Well okay, maybe just a little bit. But the point is that 20 or more years ago when these faux pas were committed, the PC industry was just being born, and no one could have ever imagined how it would turn out two decades later. Today, anyone who dares to venture making a prediction of how computing will evolve in the next 20 years would be putting his reputation at risk.

I say this in the midst of celebrating the personal computer's 20th birthday this August. The IBM 5150 PC was released on Aug. 12, 1981, equipped with an Intel microprocessor running at the blazing speed of 4.77 MHz and the elephantine memory of 16 Kb RAM. Twenty years later, PCs can have 1 GHz processors and 128 Mb RAM.

The IBM 5150 didn't have a hard drive or input/output ports. It ran on Microsoft DOS 1.0, but did not have any productivity software. It sold for $2,665. Today, that would translate to more than $5,000. The green phosphur monitor was not included in the price tag. By the end of the year, 35,000 of the IBM computers were sold.

In today's issue of Infotech, Gates waxes nostalgic about the beginnings of the PC era, and predicts that the PC will still be around for decades to come. When Gates bagged the deal to load the IBM 5150 with the very first Microsoft operating system, he started on his road toward being the richest man on the planet. You see, IBM didn't patent the exact workings and circuitry of the 5150, and so other companies "cloned" the machine. In a few years, millions of PC clones were being built and sold by thousands of PC manufacturers. These clones all had to run on an OS, and so Microsoft began its monopoly. Windows now runs on more than 90 percent of personal computers in the world, with the Macintosh a far second at around 5 percent.

And so you see why it's important for Microsoft to keep the PC industry alive. In the middle of a highway where "thin" clients, handheld devices and Internet appliances are zipping back and forth beyond the speed limit, Microsoft has to defend the PC. Although IBM is the father of the PC, Microsoft had a big role in making the PC industry what it is today. Twenty years is a short time for an invention to influence a culture, but the PC has brought a lot of changes we never even dreamed of a couple of decades ago.

A few years ago the PC faced its biggest challenge. It wasn't the Mac. It wasn't Linux. It was the Internet. While demand for more powerful machines went up because of laughable download speeds, one

PERSONAL/ p.B13

Splitting Excel data

BY JERRY LIAO

IF you have data in a range of cells that contains first name and last name and you'd like to split them apart into separate worksheet columns, you can use the "Text to Column" function of Excel. Here's how:

(1) Select the range of cells you want to split.

(2) Click "Data" then "Text To Column" then "Next."

(3) Select the "Delimiter" that is appropriate for your data (a delimiter is simply the character that identifies the end of one string and the beginning of another).

(4) Click "Next."

(5) Select the "Column Data Format."

(6) On the "Destination" box, enter the worksheet cell address that indicates where you want the split data to be placed.

(7) Click "Finish."

Personal computing in the last 20 years

(From page B12)

would think that the Internet would jack up PC sales. And it did. Around 1995, people were buying PCs at record levels not because they wanted the latest business productivity software or the latest games; they were buying PCs to get connected to the Internet.

However, the other side of the force—and I don't necessarily mean the dark side—maintained that powerful, expensive PCs or fat clients wasn't the way to go when you want to ride the Net. They maintained that since everything is now hooked up into this worldwide network, what you need to do is to put the intelligence and power on the server side and hook this up to less expensive thin clients or Internet appliances which don't run Microsoft software. These machines are dependent on the network and had little or no local processing options. For about two years this idea sounded plausible, and I could have sworn I felt Gates shivering all the way from Seattle. The Network Computer or NC was born, and various Javastations popped up in stores. Internet appliances were in vogue. All of these machines did not need Microsoft software to run. What then, would happen to the PC and Gates' dream of global domination?

Microsoft answered with the NetPC, a set of specifications detailing the innards of a low-end PC for use as a thin client but with local (non-network) capabilities. And yes, it ran on Microsoft software. But Gates' fears were allayed when the Internet appliance concept didn't fly. In the end, people realized that they didn't have to be constantly connected to the network or to the Internet, and so they needed machines which can survive on its own or as a wired machine. That was exactly what the PC was all about—whether desktop or mobile.

And so happy days were back for Microsoft. That explains why Gates is so bullish about the PC in his article. And that, in a nutshell, is a brief history of the PC after 20 years of existence.

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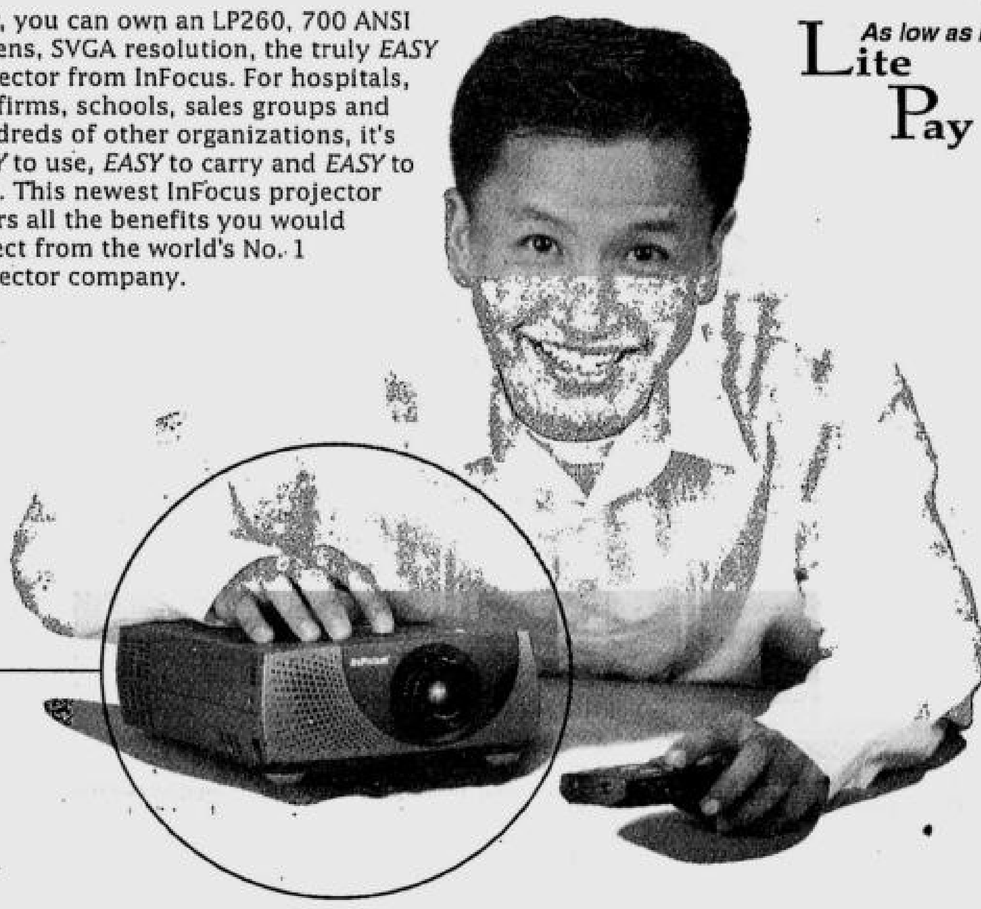

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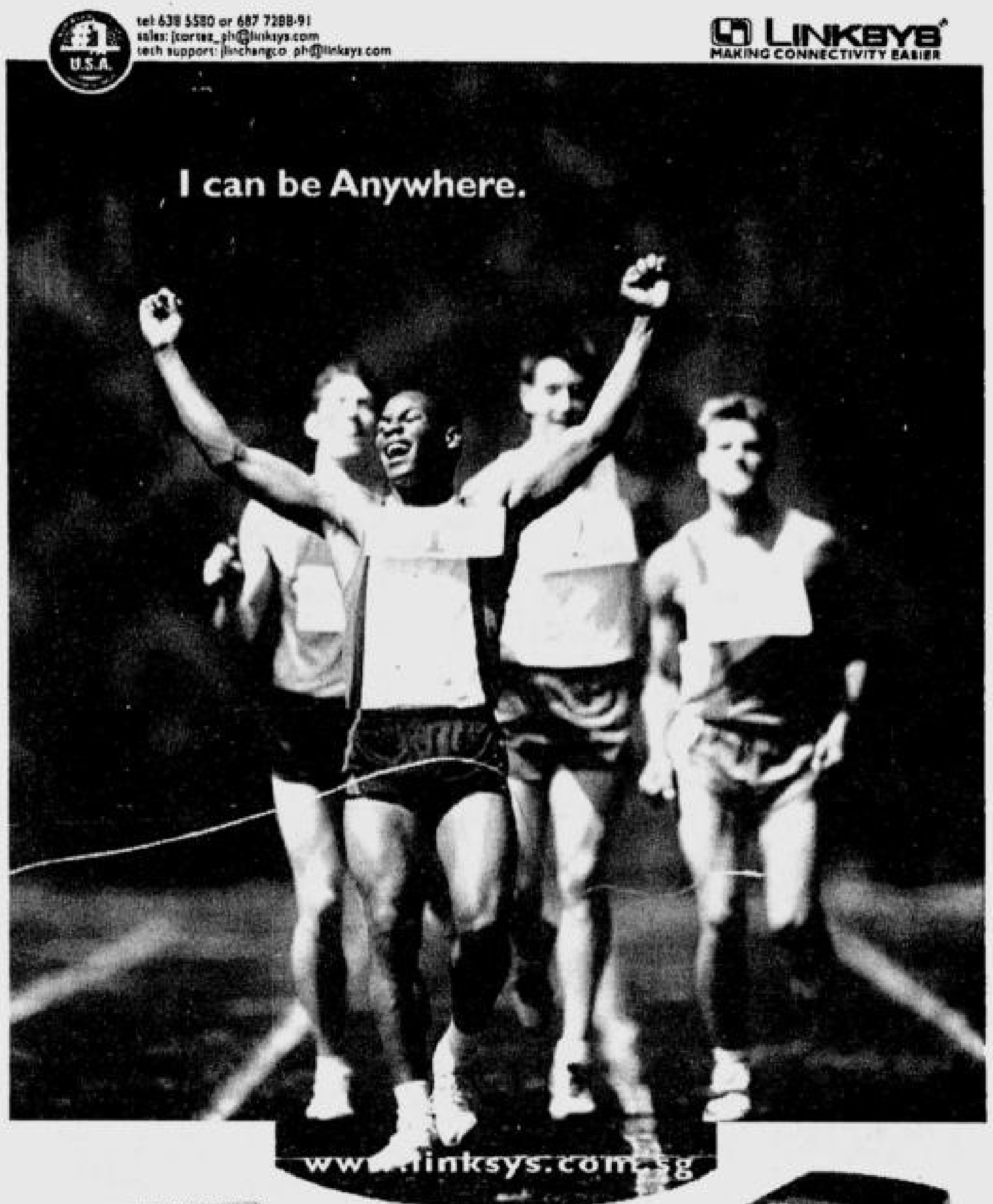

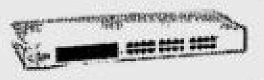

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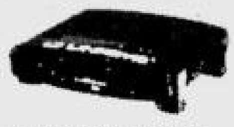

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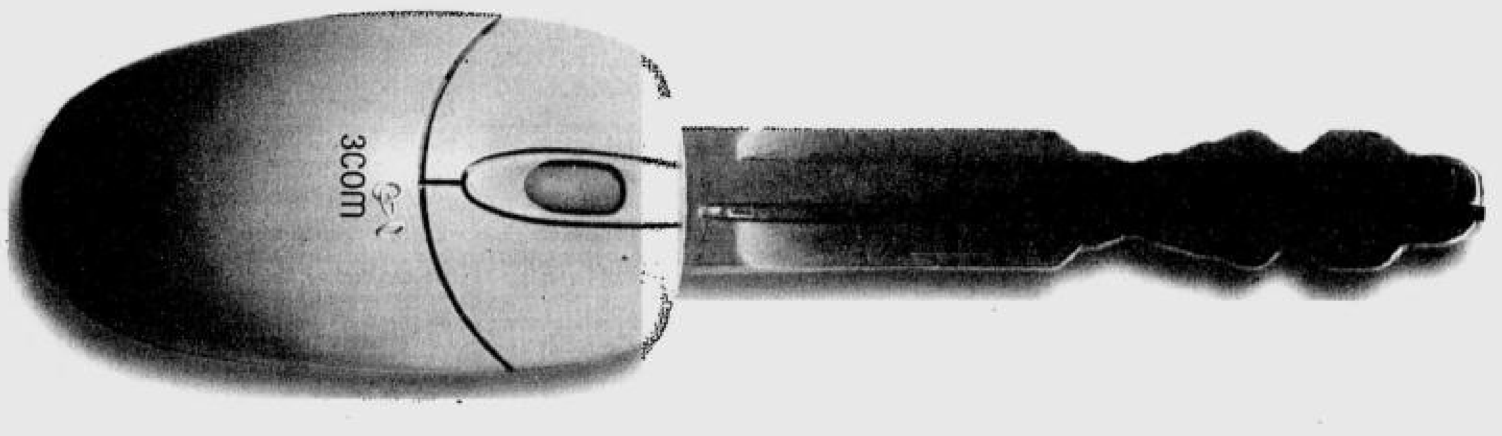

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Wanted SERVICE CREW Qualification: Female at least 5'4 Height with Pleasing Personality age 18-22 year old report to Mann-Hann restaurant lower ground floor Bldg. A SM Megamall on Monday Aug 13, 2001 at 3PM Look for Felix

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20 Ofc staff 9134470 Ms Bea

CARE GIVER T5280722

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Direct Hire Ofc Staff 9134470 Start ASAP Ms. Fe

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that Official Receipt No. 451-500 BIR registered under TIN#206-753-904 VAT of CALYPSO COLOR CORP. was lost.

Any transactions entered into the said Receipts will not be honored by the Company.

(PDI--Aug. 12,13 & 14, 2001)

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan. All unredeemed pledges of Feb 2001 will be auctioned on Aug. 24, 8:30 am, Lanuza & Sons - Auctioneer

YUPANGCO PAWNSHOP, INC. Pledges as of Jan.-Feb. will be auctioned at the ff. offices: Blk. 2-K 2nd Flr. Galleria Baclaran Taft Ave., PC-Aug. 21 '01-8:30AM; 200 Zapote Bacoor Cavite-Aug. 21 '01-2:00PM; Apt. 5 South Superhighway Alabang Muntinlupa MM-Aug. 28 '01-8:30AM J. Flor-Auctioneer

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CLARITA TALLA was extrajudicially settled among heirs per Doc. No. 1185; Page No. 11; Book No. 36; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Danilo B. Banares of Makati City (PDI-Aug. 6, 13 & 20,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the extrajudicial settlement of estate with waiver executed by the heirs of ISABELO P. VIDAL on 7/28 /01 before notary public Atty.Luis S. Salas of Pasay City per Doc. No. 289; Page No. 58; Book No. 1; Series of 2001 PDI-Aug. 6, 13 & 20, 2001

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late Cesar M. Espinosa has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. 273 Page 56 Book XXXIX Series 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Isabelo C. Salamida of Tarlac City [PDI-August 6,13&20,2001]

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: Pray for us.
St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.
Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.
Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

ATTENTION

If you want a chance to emigrate to the U.S.A., CANADA or EUROPE

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A Japanese Design Engineering firm handling major Automotive Components and Wiring Harness design projects for local affiliates and export to Japan, immediately requires competent individuals:

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Qualifications: Graduate of any Bachelor of Science course with at least 10 years experience in the supervision of the following:

- Manufacturing of Automotive components;
- Preparation of technical documents for production;
- At least 5 years experience in handling Japanese clients.

THESE ARE URGENT REQUIREMENTS!

All applicants are requested to MAIL comprehensive resumé with recent photo and contact phone number starting 30-31 July 2001 to the address below.

Philippine EDS Techno-service, Inc.
20th Floor 6788 Ayala Avenue, Oledan Square
Makati City

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11/F. BA Lepanto Building
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines
Tel. No. (02) 841-0644
Telefax No. (02) 810-8418

Brgy. Batangas Dos
Mariveles, Bataan
Te. No. (047) 244-7441
Telefax No. (047) 244-5883

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) in good standing to apply for qualification / eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I.	Work Order No.	WSC-00-013R1
II.	Project Title	Construction of Tank 300 Facilities & Additional Fire Water Distribution System
III.	Scope of Work	Construction of Tank 300, Additional Fire Water System, Concrete Reservoir and Accessories, Storm Drainage System, Perimeter Fencing including Pedestrian and Vehicular Gates and Parking Area.
IV.	Project Location	Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
V.	Approved Budget	Pesos Ten Million Four Hundred One Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Two and 61/100 (P 10,401,822.61)
VI.	Source of Funding	PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation
VII.	Estimated Contract Duration	One Hundred Five (105) Calendar Days
VIII.	PCAB License Minimum Requirement	
	Classification	Medium A
	Category	Water Supply and/or Mechanical Work
IX.	Similar Contracts	Construction of Dams, Reservoir, Irrigation, Flood Control, Tunneling and other Water Supply Facilities
X.	Credit Line / Cash Deposit	Pesos One Million Forty Thousand One Hundred Eighty Two & 26/100
	Certificate Requirement	(P1,040,182.26)
XI.	Eligibility Statement Forms	One (1) set each to be filled up and submitted for every project.
	Cost of Forms	One Hundred Pesos each set (P100.00/set)
	Date and Time of Issuance	August 6-17, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Statements / Documents	PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts Administration Department or PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
	Deadline of Submission	On or before August 23, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.
XII.	Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility	
	Date and Time of Issuance	August 13 - September 10, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance	PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
XIII.	Pre-bid Conference	
	Date and Time	October 2, 2001 at 9:30 a.m.
	Venue	PPDC Conference Room PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
XIV.	Bid/Tender Documents	Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
	Cost of Documents	One Thousand Pesos each set (P1,000.00/set)
	Date and Time of Issuance	September 10-24, 2001 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Place of Issuance	PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747.Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department or PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
	Deadline of Submission	On or before October 23, 2001 at 9:30 a.m.
	Place of Submission	PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department

XV. BID OPENING IN THE SAME VENUE WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Prospective bidders are required to submit original copy of Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate/s and original copies of pertinent documents such as Contractor's PCAB License, audited Financial Statements, etc. for verification/ authentication purposes.

All particulars relative to pre-qualification / eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Relations, as amended, and other applicable rules and regulations.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may incur in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
BAC-Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 2, 8 & 13, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education, Culture, and Sports
Third Elementary Education Project

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: August 6, 2001
Loan No. 4108-PH
IFB No. PISU-CO/232001

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (through the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS)) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply and delivery of Office Equipment to Selected Division and District Offices in the Philippines.
2. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), Project Implementation Support Unit (PISU) for Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of office equipment.
3. For the purpose of this bidding, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply or selling and distribution or delivery of office equipment to remote areas in a developing country like the Philippines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the Office of Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for Foreign Assisted Projects, Ground Floor Rizal Bldg. II, DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. No. (632) 636-6542 or 632-1361 local 2085 or Telefax No. (632) 636-6542.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting August 6, 2001 upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).
6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank *Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.*
7. Bids must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, on or before 10:00 a.m. on **September 13, 2001** and must be accompanied by a security of two (2) percent of total bid price.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 a.m. on **September 13, 2001** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
9. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **August 23, 2001**, 10:00 a.m. at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary and
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Aug 13, 16 & 17, 2001)

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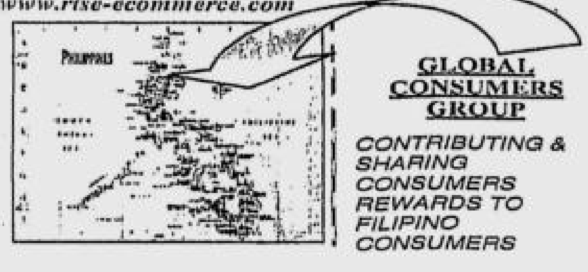

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RISE CHIT-PANDACAN
Ms. Necita D. Salivio
1944 A. Sampaguita St., Pandacan,
Manila Tel. No. (02) 561-6605

RISE Commonwealth Group
Ms. Ofelia J. Ballesta
628 Grapes St., Commonwealth Ave.,
Q.C. Tel. Nos.: (02) 932-2490/428-0840

RISE Global City Taguig
Ms. Regina C. Velasco
355 B-8 GHQ Zone 1-C Signal, Taguig,
Metro Manila Tel. Nos.: (02) 838-7883
CP # 0919-4339797 / 0919-8990289

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5554 P. Binay St., cor. Bauangueño
St., Brgy. Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel. # (02) 887-2446

RISE E-CUBAO
Ms. Nila D. Cañezal
Rm 403 Diamond Bldg., 603 EDSA
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. # (02) 418-2729 / CP# 0917-4948023

RISE PACO
Mr. Allan T. Resterio
116-4 Bagong Baranggay Housing
Project, Zamora St., Pandacan, Manila
Tel. # (02) 562-0645
CP # 0919-8012633 / 0917-4987682

RISE ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA
CTMA COMMUNICATIONS
384 East Service Road, Alabang,
Muntinlupa / Tel. #: (02) 772-1193
CP# 0919-3182678

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RISE E-Novaliches
Ms. Emma C. Daniel
#223-E General Luis cor. Gold Sts.,
Novaliches, Q.C. Tel. # (02) 983-0346 /
936-1495 / 935-8381
CP # 0919-3082387

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RISE Project 8, Quezon City
Ms. Rosario E. Ranoa
106-B Rd. 20, Project 8, Quezon City
Tel No.: (02) 456-6955 / 453-8280
CP# 0917-3502595 Fax: (02) 927-2314
Email: rrreds@pacific.net.ph

RISE Roosevelt, Quezon City
Ms. Meryle Taaca
Unit 7, 3rdFlr., 316 Roosevelt Ave.,
SFDM, Quezon City
Tel No.: (02) 330-9259
CP # 0917-5401634

RISE Diliman, Quezon City
Tel No.: (02) 931-8003
CP # 0917-8374464

RISE VIRMAL-BATANGAS CITY
Mr. Virgilio M. Lichauco
Lyceum Site, Kumintang Ibaba,
Batangas City / Tel. # (043) 300-2001
Telefax: (043) 300-5815

RISE CYBIZ-QUEZON CITY
Mr. Le Guzman
#18 Antonio Luna Proj. 4,
Quezon City / Tel. # (02) 932-4216
Telefax: (02) 951-2832
CP #s: 0917-3871028/
0919-832-8771
Email: go4gold@edsamail.com.ph

RISE Parañaque City
Ms. Marilou Espiritu
84C Doña Soledad Ave.,
Better Living, Parañaque City
Tel. # (02) 821-1155 / 821-1188
CP # 0919-4482698
Orientation Schedule:
Aug. 14 & 16 '01 (Tues. & Thurs.) @ 2 PM – 4 PM

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☐ **Ms. Josephine F. Atienza**
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CP# 0918-7233673

Ms. Alice Garin
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CP # 0917-6405120 / 0919-6528190

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Ms. Rose E. Ranoa
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CP # 0917-3502595
Email: rrreds@pacific.net.ph

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Mr. Nixon M. Edora
BM Road, Puerto Princessa City
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Ms. Delia B. Legaspi
1553 L. BarriosSt., Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. # (036) 262-3562

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Mandaue, Cebu
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Ms. Imelda Sarmiento (075) 515-6755
CP# 0919-6649784
Ms. Emily Soriano (075) 515-4066
43 Perez Blvd., Dagupan City
CP # 0917-3654775

RISE BIÑAN, LAGUNA
Ms. Lilibeth Gabriel
Brgy. Tubigan Biñan, Laguna
Tel. No.: (049) 839-1136
CP # 0919-8195899

SOON TO OPEN

RISE CEBU CITY
Unit 8 Galleria Fuente, Avenue,
Cebu City

PARTIES INTERESTED TO BECOME BCO in your area, please get assistance from the nearest BCO or visit/contact RISE GROUP OF COMPANIES HEADQUARTERS, Suite1906, Robinsons Galleria Corporate Center, EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City, Tel. No. (02) 687-1737 / 687-2917; Telefax: (02) 687-0941, Text #s: 0919-6727808 / 0919-2123230 / 0917-6181516

Republika ng Pilipinas
KAGAWARAN NG KAGALINGANG PANLIPUNAN AT PAGPAPAUNLAD
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT)
BATASAN PAMBANSA COMPLEX, CONSTITUTION HILLS
QUEZON CITY

Invitation for Bids

August 10, 2001

Early Childhood Development Project
Loan No. 4301-PH
IFB No. ECD-PMO-01DSWD-004

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Early Childhood Development Project (ECDP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply and delivery of Information Technology (IT) Equipment.
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development, Project Management Office (PMO) of the Early Childhood Development Project (ECDP), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of IT Equipment. This includes fifty-eight (58) units each of Hi-end Brand Desktop Computer with Modem, Hi-end Brand Laser Printer and Hi-end Brand Uninterruptible Power Supply.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and secure the complete set of bidding documents, upon presentation of a letter of intent, starting **August 15, 2001** from Ms. Mariciris Jacinto of the Property and Supply Division, 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone nos. (632) 9318161, (632) 9318101 to 07 local 125, and fax no. (632) 9517116 or 9318127.
4. Bids must be received in a sealed envelope (complete with all requirements) by Ms. Mariciris Jacinto at the same address in paragraph 3 not later than **August 29, 2001**, 10:00 a.m. Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of two percent (2%) of total bid price. Late quotations will not be accepted.
5. Prior to submission of bid proposals, a Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **August 21, 2001**, 2:00 p.m. at the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.
6. The DSWD Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein and/or accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **Asst. Sec. LOURDES G. BALANON**
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 12 & 13, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

July 29, 2001

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar land development works (at least 50% of Estimated Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to prequalify and bid for the contract listed as follows:

Bid Package	Scope of Works	Project Cost (Million)	PCAB Category	IAC Class.
A. San Jose Resettlement Project, Bgy. San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	Land Dev't. roadworks, & drainage works	P6.40	B	Medium A for Roads
B. Menzi Housing Project, Isabela, Basilan	Const. of 44 housing units	P3.60	B	Medium A for Building

A. Eligibility Statement forms and bid documents/plans are available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following: a) Letter of Intent (LOI); b) PCAB/IAC License; c) Certificate of Completion/Acceptance and Contract Agreement of completed similar project; and d) Presentation of the above original documents for authentication purposes.
B. Deadline of submission of LOI/other documents is on **August 14, 2001.** Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on August 16, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. at the Operation Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City.
C. Payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 per set shall be received only from authorized representatives.
D. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.
E. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally of any defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI - Aug 2, 8 & 13, 2001)

AUCTION SALE

On the instructions of Pfizer

PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING MACHINERY; LABORATORY EQUIPMENT; ELCTRODIALYSIS; REVERSAL SYSTEM; CATERPILLAR 1375KVA DIESEL GENERATOR; PALLET RACKING; OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

Over 1,000 lots including: -

PRODUCTION MACHINERY - AMF Glen 340 85 Gallon Cap. Mixer; STOKES Stainless Steel Ribbon Blender; READCO Heavy Duty Mixer; DIAF Stainless Steel Pan Mixer; DAB Filamatic Liquid Filling Machine; MTC INVERTA Cleaner Table; AEROMATIC Fluid Bed Dryer w/ In-Line Exhaust; KAIJO DENKI 600 Thyristor; CHASE Powder Filling Machine; ERTEL Stainless Steel Filter System; HOTPACK Stainless Steel Oven; WALTER BRUCK Coating Pan
PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT - (2) 5000, 2000, 900 Litre Stainless Steel Mixing Tanks; Asstd. Stainless Steel Mixing Vessels; Stainless Steel Drum, Portable Mixing Vessels, Transfer Pumps, Mobile Platforms, Mobile Belt Conveyors, Transfer Conveyors, Work Surfaces, Platforms, etc.
LABORATORY - SHIMADZU GC Gas Chromatograph; PERKIN ELMER Spectrophotometer; WALTER Liquid Chromatograph; (2) WALTERS 510 HPLC Pumps; WALTERS 490 E/431 Programmable Multiwave Detectors; BECKMAN 12F4B Aquameter; VANKEL Friabilator; MIRAN IB2 Air Analyzer; SKC Sample Calibrator; HANSON 8460 Heat Circulator; HOTPACK Vacuum Oven; LABCONCO Acid Cleaning System; LABLINE Oven; BECKMAN 3500 Digital PH Meter; BLUE M Muffle Furnace; HACH Turbidimeter; ENGELSMANN Volumeter; BARREL Wrist Action Shaker; LABLINE Multi Magnestir; AQUA Q Water Purification System; BF PERKINS Mullen Tester; Asstd. Digital Scales; Stainless Steel Storage Cabinets; Stereo Zoom Microscopes; Asstd. Glassware, Chemicals, etc.
ELECTRODIALYSIS REVERSAL SYSTEM - PENFIELD Electrodialysis Reversal System Comprising: - (2) Multi Filters, Activated Carbon Filter, AQUAFINE Ultra Violet Sterilizer; Heat Exchanger, FINN AQUA 500 H4 Distillation Unit, Ultra Filtration Unit, PENFIELD Polishing Cation Unit, PENFIELD Primary Cation Anion, Demineralization, EDR Product Storage Tank
WAREHOUSE EQUIPMENT & SERVICES - A Huge Qty. Of Pallet Racking; Wooden/Plastic Pallets; Steel Cages; TOYOTA/KOMATSU 1.5T Cap. Gas Operated Forklifts; YALE Battery Operated 1T Cap. Pedestrian Type Forklifts; Asstd. Battery Operated Pedestrian Type Forklifts; Battery Charges; Hand Pallet Trucks; Sack Barrows; CM 2T Cap. Electric Hoist;
PRINTING MACHINERY - OKADA, PETERS, HADA Label Printer; KK Model 600 Imprinter; DIAGRAPH BRADLER Stencil Machine
MISCELLANEOUS - Stainless Steel Scoops; BOSTITCH Foot Pedal Stapler; Stainless Steel Storage Cabinets; (2) TOLEDO 10 Kg. Cap. Weighing Scales; Personnel Lockers; Aluminum Cubicles; Step Ladders; Aluminum Decontamination Air Shower; (4) PRECISION Low Temperature Incubators; KEW High Pressure Washers; INGERSOLL RAND Reciprocating Air Compressors; Asstd. Pumps; Electric Motors; TORIT Dust Extractor; Insect Repellants; Heavy Duty Vacuum Cleaners Stainless Steel Drinking Fountains; Emergency Lights, etc.
LAUNDRY ROOM - CUMMINS Wascomatic Heavy Duty Dryer; HOOVER Heavy Duty Washing Machine; Steam Pres, etc.
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Asstd. Personal Computers; Reception Furniture; Wooden Desks; Fabric Upholstered Office Chairs; Steel Filing Cab; Steel Storage Cab, etc.

PLANT SERVICES

POWER GENERATION - CATERPILLAR 3512 1375 KVA 1100 KW Diesel Generator (103 Hours); FG WILSON/PERKINS Diesel Generator
AIR CONDITIONING - Asstd. 5 Tonne Packaged Type Air Conditioners; Asstd. Split & Window Type Air Conditioners; Asstd. Air Curtains
WASTE WATER TREATMENT including - Pumps, Tanks, etc.
BOILER - CLAYTON 160 PSI Steam Generator

AT: PFIZER INC. - Km. 21.5 East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Sucat, Muntinlupa City, Philippines
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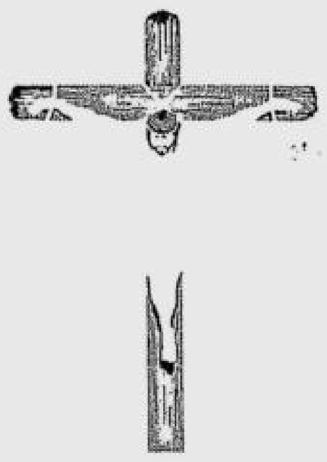
"I am the way, the truth and the life..."
John 14:6



Our Dearly Beloved Nanay

Razon Tumbocon-Haresco

Chairman, Tariff Commission (1968-1985)
: Committee on Economic Affairs under H.E. Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (1992-2000)
Head, Senate Tax and Tariff Office (1990-1992)
Consultant, UNDP, ADB and World Bank (1973-1986)

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace of our Lord
on the 11th day of August 2001 at the age of 83.

Wife to **Teodorico Sr.** (†), and mother to her loving children **Pri**
"Mike" and **Teodorico "Ted" Jr.** & his best friend **Sylvia**; s
Eustacia (†), **Ciceron** (†), **Lolito**, **Soledad**, **Eusebia**, **Le**
grandchildren **Paolo**, **J.T.** & **Gina**, **Patricia**, **Jocelo**, **Amara**; gr
relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the e

Her remains lie in state at the Premiere II, Loyola Memorial Cha

Nanay Zoning's remains will be flown to Kalibo, Aklan on Friday,
the Provincial Capitol. It will then be transferred to Ibajay, Aklan

Interment will be on Sunday, 19 August 2001, after the 2:00 p.m.
Church, Ibajay, Aklan.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Sto. Niño Seminary in Numan
Assumpta Seminary in Cabanatuan City will be highly appreciate

---

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard,
nor has it so much as downed on man what
God has prepared for those who love Him."
I Corinthians 2:9

DRA. LOLITA A. TAN, MD

of Bocaue, Bulacan and Vallejo, California

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 31, 2001
at the age of 50.

Beloved daughter of **Mrs. Brigida Ayroso** and **Tan Lee** (†);

Sister, Dear Auntie and Lola to:

Belen and **Narciso Santiago**
Gene
Ronald
Michelle

Gloria and **Loreto Uy**
Aries and **Angie**
Keith and **Aubrey**
Alvin and **Beauty**
Neng
Ana

Lina and **Jimmy Francisco**
Judd and **Rowena**
Arlene and **Pol**
Bijeh and **Mel**
Cris

Boy and **Rose Tan**
Anne Princess

Bebe and **Amy Tan**
Jason
Joseph
Sarah
Jefferson

Her remains lie at her residence at #198 A. Mendoza Street, Bocaue, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 14, 2001 at 2:00 PM at Krus sa Wawa Memorial Park.

Lovingly Remembered

Lt. Col. Nestor T. Velasco, PA

(PMA Matikas Class '83)

On the First Anniversary of his birth into eternal life
28 June, 1961 — 14 August, 2000

His loving wife, daughters, parents, brothers, sister and relatives request the pious readers to join them in their prayers

Holy Masses and Prayers will be offered at the following churches:

St. Ignatius de Loyola Chapel Camp Evangelista, Cagayan de Oro City	Aug. 14, 2001, 8:00 am
Immaculate Conception Chapel Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City	Aug 14, 2001, 12:00 nn
Greenhills Memorial Park Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City	Aug 14, 2001, 8:00 am
St. Augustine Metropolitan Cathedral Cagayan de Oro City	Aug 14, 2001, 5:30 pm
Sacred Heart Chapel RER Subd. Cagayan de Oro City	Aug. 14, 2001, 6:00 pm
St. Joseph Church Fleming St. Vancouver, B.C. Canada	Aug. 14, 2001, 8:00 am
St. Luke's Parish Maple Ridge, B.C. Canada	Aug. 14, 2001, 8:00 am
St. Patrick's Church Vancouver, B.C. Canada	Aug. 14, 2001, 8:00 am
Sto. Domingo Church Quezon City	Aug 14, 2001, 8:00 am
St. Ignatius Pro Cathedral Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City	Aug. 14, 2001, 8:00 am
St. Michael's Chapel Ft. Bonifacio, Makati City	Aug. 14, 2001, 3:00 pm
St. Peter Parish Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City	Aug. 14, 2001, 6:00 pm

Our many thanks to all who keep him in their memory.

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MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

DR. ORCHID T. VIOLA-ONA

Of Camias San Miguel Bulacan
Peacefully joined her Creator on August 10, 2001 at the age of 38.

She is survived by her husband **ROGEL** & daughter **HILARY**; We her brothers & sisters **JUDGE HORACIO JR. & JUDY, JUDGE OMAR & EDEN, OTHLEY & REXY, OWEN & EVA, O'HARA, ORWELL & BING, ODYSSEY & MEL**, together with our mother, **NORMA**, her in-laws, **REMIGIO & ANICETA**, nieces & nephews, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Her remains will be transferred to San Miguel Bulacan on Thursday, August 16, 2001 at 6:00 a.m.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 18, 2001, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at San Jose Quasi Church.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Milky Way

Q. Why is our galaxy called the Milky Way?

A. The Milky Way is a powdery band of gas, dust and some 200 billion stars. The ancient Greeks imagined the band to be milk squirted from the breast of the goddess Hera, hence the name. The Greek word for milk is *gala*, and that is where the term *galaxy* comes from -- so it really is the 'milky way' after all.

Which is Which? ***Ice cream*** **and** ***Sherbet.*** *Ice cream* is a flavored mixture of cream, although commercial ice cream usually contains less cream and more milk as well as thickeners and other additives, like preservatives. Because ice cream made from ideal ingredients is likely to be quite expensive, many manufacturers substitute lighter liquids for the heavy cream and add emulsifiers, cheaper fats, and other substances to simulate good ice cream. In contrast, *sherbet* is made with fruit juice and skimmed or whole milk or cream (though less than used in ice cream), with egg white or gelatin; it is colder and less creamy than ice cream and contains a higher proportion of ice.

Past Forward. This day in 1898: Clarke's, the first ice cream parlor in the Philippines, opened in Quiapo, Manila. Owned and operated by an American named Metcalf Clarke, the parlor later moved to Plaza Moraga in Binondo.

WORD WATCH

Sorbetes : Spanish for 'sherbet' -- not 'ice cream,' as commonly supposed; the Spanish term for ice cream is *helado*.

PDI -- Aug. 13, 2001

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting applications for

Fellowship for Academic Year 2002 (with specific requirements)

I. **Adult Cardiology**
- 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
- PCP Diplomate

II. **Pediatric Cardiology**
- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- At least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

III. **Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery**
- 4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS
- Must have passed the certifying examination given by PBS
- At least, qualified to take such certifying examination
- Submission of the result of the in service training examination

IV. **Pulmonary Medicine**
- 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP

V. **Anesthesiology**
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (board eligible); Diplomate of the Philippine Board of Anesthesiology
- Must have passed departmental interview and the pre-fellowship evaluation
- 3-month (October to December) pre-fellowship (except for graduates of the Philippine Heart Center Anesthesia Residency Program)

VI. **1 Year Clinical Research Fellowship for** Non-Invasive Cardiology, Invasive Cardiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Critical Care Medicine, Electrophysiology, Peripheral Vascular Medicine, Pediatric Invasive & Non-Invasive Cardiology, Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery and Pulmonary Medicine.
1 Year Fellowship Program for Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, and Biological and Clinical Laboratory.

Residencies for Academic Year 2002

(Requires satisfactory completion of Q.U.E.R.T./DOH examinations and passing of the Medical Board.)

I. **Radiology**
II. **Nuclear Medicine**
III. **Biological and Clinical Laboratory**

General Requirements for Application for Fellowship & Residency:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different doctors including Training Officers/Directors application)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communication to:

JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

***Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2001.**
***Academic Year 2002 starts on January 1, 2002.**

(PDI - Aug. 13 & 14, 2001)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
9th Floor DENR by the Bay Bldg. 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Phils.
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INVITATION TO BID "AS-IS-WHERE-IS"

The Natural Resources Development Corporation will receive sealed bids on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis for the forest products described below:

LOCATION/ DEPOSITORY AREA	ESTIMATED VOLUME/ NO. OF PCS.	SPECIES/ FORM
Brgy. Cabigaan, Aborlan, Palawan	689.21 cubic meters	Logs
Luzon Mahogany Timber Corp. (LUZMATIM) Brgy. Calumangin, Gumaca, Quezon	54.14 cubic meters	Assorted species (round logs)
Mr. Epifanio Bernardo Cmpd., Brgy. Sabang, Mauban, Quezon	77.46 cubic meters	Round logs
CENRO Cmpd., Real, Quezon	2,154.00 board feet	Assorted Lauan (logs & flitches)
CENRO Cmpd., Real, Quezon	1,849.00 board feet	Common Hardwood (lumber)
CENRO, Cmpd., Real, Quezon	8,358.00 board feet	Lauan (flitches)
Brgy. Kinanliman, Real, Quezon	5.32 cubic meters	Common Hardwood (logs)
BUNSACO Inc. Compd., Maug, Butuan City	66,011.00 board feet/ 21,021.00 pieces	Assorted species (lumber)
Freedom Woodcraft Cmpd., Butuan City	11,550.58 board feet/ 1,947 pieces	Lauan & Misc. species

Only legitimate log and lumber dealers, operators of sawmills, plywood and veneer plants shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

Bidders are reminded:

1. To inspect the forest products to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit Registration/Certification documents from DTI or SEC and PWPA;
3. To submit bid on NRDC official bid form available at the NRDC-PBAC Secretariat during office hours;
4. A bidder's bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in the form of either Cash, Cashier's check or Manager's Check must be submitted together with bid.

Bidding Schedule:

Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents	August 20, 2001; 5:00 p.m.
Schedule of Pre-bidding Conference	August 22, 2001; 2:00 p.m.
Schedule of Bid Opening	August 27, 2001; 2:00 p.m.
Place of Bidding	NRDC-9th flr. DENR by the Bay Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

Automatic rebidding will be conducted on September 3, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. in case the bidding fails due to insufficient number of participating bidders.

NRDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any formalities in connection thereto and accept such bids considered as most advantageous to NRDC and/or the government.

For inquiries call Telephone No. 521-9421 and Telefax 521-9466.

(Sgd.) DIOGENES S. FERREZ
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Aug. 11, 12 & 13, 2001)

PROFESSORS LAUNCH BOOKS

Seven faculty members of the University of the Philippines-Diliman launched seven tertiary level textbooks in business administration and statistics last July 27 at the new RCBC Plaza Building in Makati. Under the leadership of dean Elvira A. Zamora, four college of business administration professors published books on consumer behavior, marketing management, production and operations management and quantitative methods for business. Led by the visionary dean Dr. Ana L. Tabunda, three statistics professors published textbooks on applied multivariate analysis, design and analysis of experiments and survey sampling. The mass launch, the first of its kind in recent local publishing history, is part of a self-empowerment program by professors in several local universities led by the UP faculty to enable teachers to become published researchers/scholars. The output is then shared with the general public by way of transfer of teaching technology to public and provincial universities. The textbooks were authored by Dr. Elvira A. Zamora, Dr. Ben Paul B. Gutierrez, Dr. Ma. Gloria V. Talavera and professor Arturo M. Ilano of the UP College of Business Administration and by Dr. Ana L. Tabunda, Dr. Erniel B. Barrios and professor Cristina R.L. Sotto of the UP School of Statistics. Shown from left are Sotto, Talavera, Ilano, Gutierrez, Tabunda, Fr. Edmundo M. Martinez, S.J. (Ateneo de Davao president), Zamora, Panfilo O. Domingo (University of the East chair), Dr. Carmelita I. Quebengco (De La Salle executive vice president), Dr. Lydia R. Arcellana (UP), Fr. Joel Tabora, S.J. (Ateneo de Naga president), Fr. William Kreutz, S.J. (Ateneo de Zamboanga president), Fr. Antonio Samson, S.J. (Xavier University president) and Barrios.

AVID HANDYCAM SEMINAR

Avid Sales Corp. recently held a Sony Handycam seminar at the Avid Sony Shop in Festival Supermall in Alabang facilitated by veteran director Freddie Santos. The participants were given lectures on framing, color selection, themes and getting the most of the their models in the three-day seminar. The participants also got hands-on experience with actual photo shooting right after each session. Each participant's footage was automatically entered in a competition and winners were announced after the last session. Ricardo Tanyag (left) receives his prize from Freddie Santos and Avid business development manager Trina Ycasiano.

PARTNERS IN EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTH CARE

PhilamCare Health Systems Inc. launched the Compendium of Philippine Medicine (Treatment Guidelines from Philippine Medical Societies), to its clinic network last April 5 at the Philam Tower in Makati. Shown were (from left) Dr. Jose Mariano L. Escaner, AVP for provider relations, medical management; Dr. Erlinda L. Tiuseco, SVP and medical director; Dr. Florentino Doble, PhilamCare coordinator for Sto. Tomas University Hospital; Hilda B. Dimandal, AVP for clinic services.

Aromatherapy workshop

MADELAINE Velasco, a pioneer in the use of Aromatherapy, will be hosting a workshop on Wednesday, Aug. 22 at Conference Room A of the Megatrade Hall at the 5th floor of Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Velasco is the first Asian member of the International Aromatherapy National Healing Association in Scotsdale, Arizona and she trained with the world-renowned aromatherapist Shirley Price in London. The workshop will consist of a basic introduction on Aromatherapy (morning session), and a more in-depth look at aromatherapy (afternoon session). Interested parties can confirm their attendance by calling 637-5411 to 12 or visit The Aromatherapy Center at the 5th floor, Building B, SM Megamall. Limited slots available.

Treat your tired body to a day at the spa

AT THE END of the day, do you feel so tired that you can't do anything else but sleep? Do you feel pains all over? Well, it's your body talking to you. Listen to it. Take it easy and reward yourself with a trip to a spa—the modern day refuge for those who want to revitalize and find better ways to enjoy life.

One good news is you don't have to travel for hours to out-of-town hideaways just to indulge in natural therapies and traditional wellness treatments. Now, day spas are located right at the city. One such place is Orient Day Spa in Alabang, Quezon City, and now in Makati. A cozy and peaceful retreat from everyday stress, the spa is becoming well known for some of the most unique therapies inspired by the holistic practices in Eastern cultures emphasizing health and wellness that encompasses body, mind and spirit.

The moment you step in, you take in the soothing aromatic scents of nature while the soft sounds of fountains and music calm your senses. Expect sea salts, seaweeds, algae, plankton, essential oils and herbal extracts to be part of your healing treatments. Warm oils penetrate deep to melt away tension, mineral rich sea salt removes dead skin cells, improves circulation, helps eliminate toxins, and moisturizes the skin.

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED COUNTRYSIDE RURAL BANK (Quezon), INC.

1. Starting August 14, 2001, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed **Countryside Rural Bank (Quezon), Inc.**
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to designated payoff sites on dates indicated in the schedule (please refer to table below), Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors:

Countryside Rural Bank (CRBI) Office/Branch	Payoff Site	Servicing Dates
Real, Quezon (Head Office)	CRBI - Head Office M.L. Quezon Ave., Real, Quezon	Aug. 14 to Sept. 10, 2001
Angono & Taytay	CRBI - Angono Branch Town proper, beside Mun. Hall, Angono, Rizal	Aug. 14 to Sept. 10, 2001
Antipolo & Cainta	CRBI - Antipolo Branch Bagong Nayon, Antipolo, Rizal	Aug. 14 to Sept. 6, 2001
Tanay	CRBI - Tanay Branch Brgy. Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal	Aug. 14 to Aug. 31, 2001
Famy	CRBI - Famy Branch National Highway, Famy, Laguna	Aug. 14 to Sept. 6, 2001
Pagsanjan	CRBI - Pagsanjan Branch National Highway, Biñan, Pagsanjan, Laguna	Aug. 14 to Sept. 6, 2001

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature
   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Countryside Rural Bank is on November 9, 2002. After November 9, 2002, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI - Aug. 11 & 13, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel: 911-6433/911-6001 loc 6592; Tel/Fax: 912-5491
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the UPGRADE OF TWO (2) C-130 AIRCRAFTS of the Philippine Air Force with an approved budget of Four Hundred Forty Six Million Two Hundred Ninety Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Pesos (Php 446,290,560.00) under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from prime contractors who may be duly authorized Program Depot Maintenance (PDM) Facility of Lockheed for the C-130 airframe or landing gear shall be entertained.

Eligibility/Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **August 14, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of Forty Thousand Pesos (P40,000.00) which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidders authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 28, 2001** at 2:00 PM (local time) at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the C-130 Aircrafts and PAF facilities upon purchase of bid documents until the deadline of submission of the First Stage envelopes.

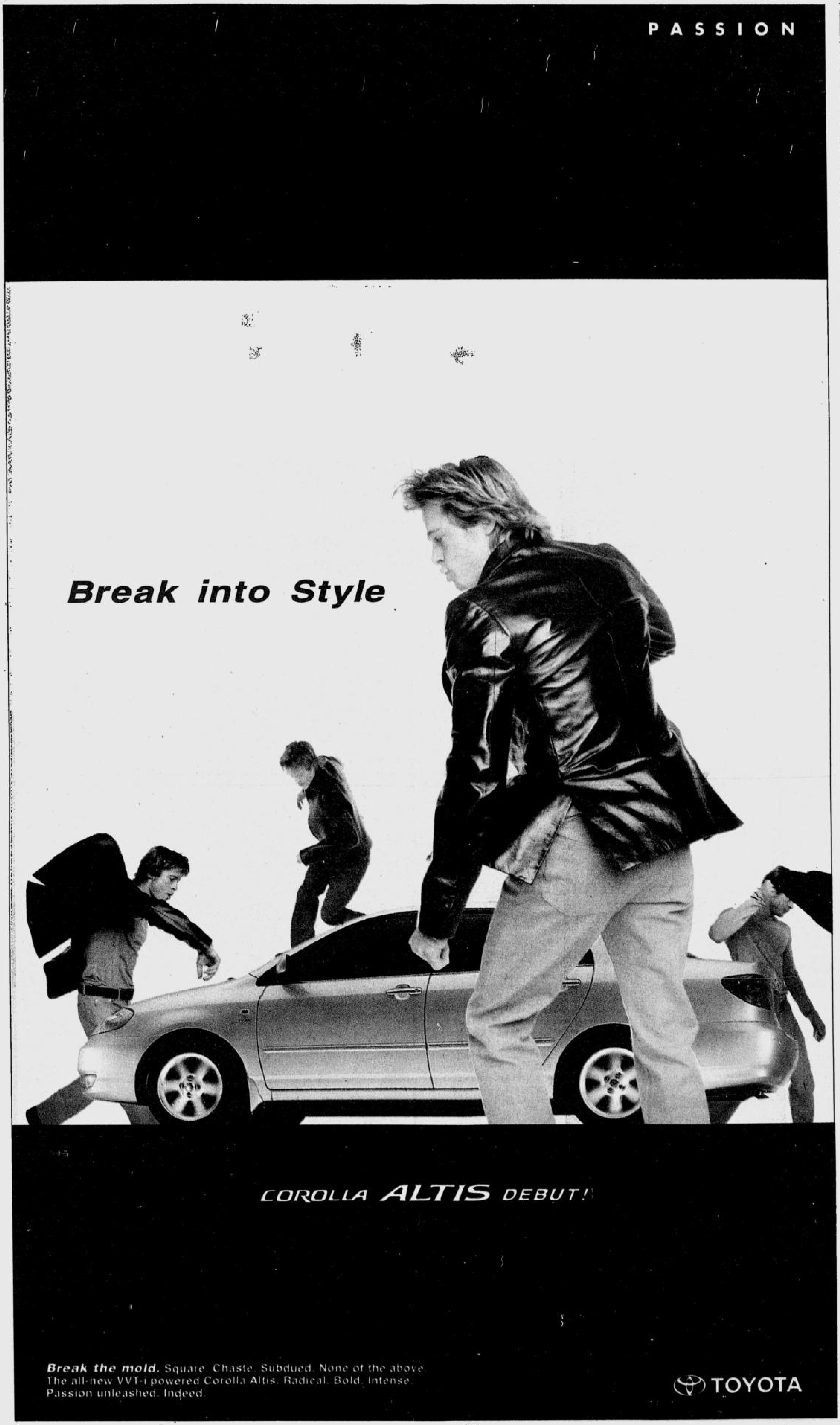
Deadline for submission of Eligibility/Bid Documents (First Stage) is on **September 19, 2001** at 9:00 AM (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at 1:00 PM at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC) Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

FOR THE CHAIRMAN, BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC):

(Sgd.) **JOSE L. REYES**
Colonel (GSC) PAF
Vice-Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Aug. 13 & 14, 2001)



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New tax system slammed

FORMER Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo has warned that it will not be practical to shift to a gross modified tax system at this time, saying the government should instead give the existing comprehensive tax reform program a chance.

In an interview, De Ocampo told the INQUIRER that the government should focus on improving tax collection through administrative measures as running after tax evaders rather than aiming to augment its revenues by changing the tax system.

"It's not very easy to pass a tax bill even in the best of times as we can see with the CTRP. I'm not so sure what the mood is now in the legislation of a new measure," he said.

"In other words, legislation will take time and time is exactly what the administration does not have. So it might be a little better for them to talk instead about increasing revenue efficiency and talk again about putting tax evaders in line, which, interestingly enough, I haven't heard of in the past few weeks."

It was during De Ocampo's term as finance secretary that that the Bureau of Internal Revenue tried to pin down tobacco magnate Lucio Tan on a P25-billion tax evasion case.

He also noted that the shift to gross taxation was extensively debated upon when the CTRP was being drafted and that it would make sense to look back at the records to see why such a tax system was not adopted then. ***Doris C. Dumlao***

No snag in dairy imports

THE OFFICE of the Government Corporate Counsel said the Philippines would not violate its commitments to the World Trade Organization should it subsidize the local dairy industry.

"We are still in the process of developing the local dairy industry, and subsidizing it for a period of five to six years is not a violation of our trading commitments (to) the WTO," OGCC Justice Amado Valdez told the INQUIRER.

"It could be a violation if we already have the Philippine dairy industry to boast of," he said in response to requests for an opinion from the trade and agriculture departments.

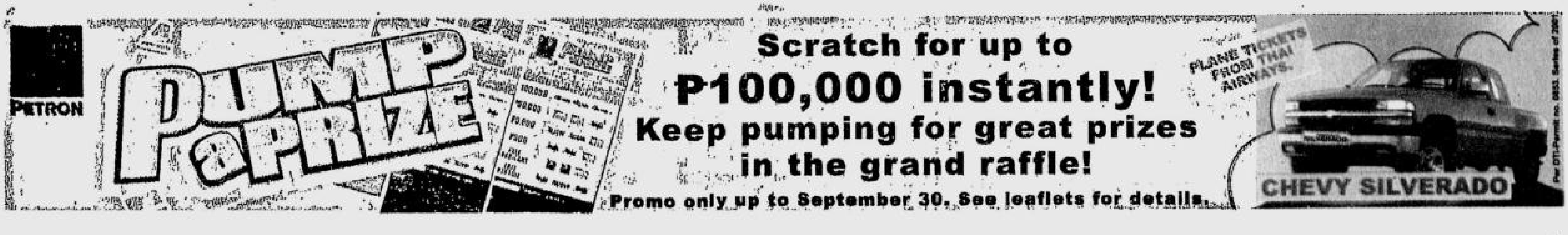
The Philippines plans to import cattle in behalf of dairy cooperatives to build up the local herd over the next five to six years.

Data from the National Dairy Authority showed that the country was spending some P20 billion a year to import dairy products to supplement domestic supply.

The value of dairy imports had risen in the past three years, it reported. As of December last year, the country imported some $402.12 million worth of dairy products.

"Because domestic production could only supply 10 percent of local milk consumption, the Philippines imported 1,904 million liters of milk last year," the NDA said.

The country's major suppliers of dairy products were Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands and the United States. ***Christine A.* Gaylican**



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BSP cracks whip on 'old boys' club'

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

TO SAY that banks were shocked by the announcement of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last Thursday that nine of their colleagues were among the culprits that drove the peso down to a six-month low was an understatement.

The nine banks found to have aided the speculative activity of their clients were in a state of denial when reporters called them to react to the BSP's verdict.

Three out of the original four foreign banks in the country—Citibank and the two UK-based banks, HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank—were joined in the notorious list by Ayala-owned Bank of the Philippine Islands, Banco de Oro controlled by taipan Henry Sy of the SM Group, Equitable PCI Bank of the Go family, sequestered United Coconut Planters Bank, Export Industry Bank of the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. and China Banking Corp. owned by Filipino-Chinese businessmen including Henry Sy.

Among themselves, the fines reached P4.3 million with Banco de Oro cornering P3.21 million of the total, followed by Export Industry Bank with P720,000, then Citibank with P210,000, then HSBC with P90,000.

The rest would have to pay the BSP P30,000 each.

A trader pointed out that where sophisticated measures like the forward cover called the Currency Risk Protection Program and other similar moves have failed, the time-tested maneuver so akin to Filipinos' sensibilities had worked.

All the central bank had to do was shame the bankers' lot and voilà, the peso rose by P1.15 centavos from P53 to close P51.85 to a dollar last Friday. Last July, it reached P54.335, the lowest rate during the Macapagal administration.

It only took a two-page press statement, detailing each bank's violation and fine, but omitting the names of the senior officers and branch managers who personally transacted the irregular deals, for the local currency to achieve some semblance of peace and quiet after two months of unrest.

A trader who begged not to be named for fear of alienation, said that the phrase "old boys' club" was like one created for the banking system, particularly for the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

"Everybody knows what's happening, who's doing what but all these were kept secretly from the nosy public," said the trader.

Bankers assumed BSP Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura, an ex-Citibanker, former PCI Bank president, former BAP head, was an extension of themselves.

But they were wrong. The governor broke from the fold last Thursday and nobody could tell where this development would bring the BAP's harmonious relationship with the BSP.

"Where you sit is where you stand," stated Buenaventura, who gained the respect of media and the business community with the unexpected BSP move.

Quick to the bankers' defense, BAP Executive Director Leonilo Coronel said what happened was, at worst, a communication problem between the bank presidents and their subordinates.

BSP /C2

FINN spends a lot of time with his staff

CEO follows principles in raising kids to run firm

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

WHAT does raising children have to do with running a company? Everything.

At least, this is how eSoft Inc. president and CEO Jeffrey Finn manages the Colorado-based Internet software company.

MANAGEMENT
STYLES

eSoft is an Internet software company that provides broadband services to small to medium enterprises through its suite of Internet security and management tools.

The company markets through a direct sales force, Internet service providers (ISPs) and a number of distributors all over the world.

In the Philippines, it has a distributorship contract with telecommunications equipment supplier Nera Communications. Its products are sold in over 37 countries in North America, Latin America, Canada, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

"Managing a company is much like raising kids. You have to lead by example," he says.

Finn has three children—a boy and two girls—so he does know what he is talking about when it comes to raising children.

Although his job entails a lot of travel, he makes it a point to do things with his children when he is at his Colorado home.

"I take them out to do the things they enjoy doing. My son plays ice hockey and my daughters play tennis. We also enjoy playing golf together," he says.

He says these outdoor activities help build his children's confidence, as well as allow him to spend quality time and to bond with them.

Spend time

This is very much the same with how he manages his people: he spends time with them and gives them the chance to talk their ideas out.

"I just try to establish a vision for the company and communicate that (to the employees). I try to develop a strong management team who will execute the plan. Then I stay out of the way and let them do their jobs by themselves," Finn said.

He emphasized that communication is the key to successfully managing a business. He believes in an "open-door policy" that allows his subordinates to freely come to him with their suggestions or grievances.

"We also have monthly company-wide meetings where we discuss our plans. We have a corporate newsletter as well," he says.

He explains that they do this at eSoft to give employees a clear grasp of what the business is all about and help them realize what they can do to help the company move forward.

Vision and plans

"I focus on making sure that the employees understand the company's vision and business plan. I also make sure that they have an idea of how to accomplish the company's goals," he says.

As the eldest of four children, Finn had ample experience in leading by example.

He grew up in a strict family where discipline was strictly enforced. Being the eldest, he became his parents' "guinea pig."

"I think my siblings had it easier than I did because my parents already learned from mistakes they've done with me," Finn said with a laugh.

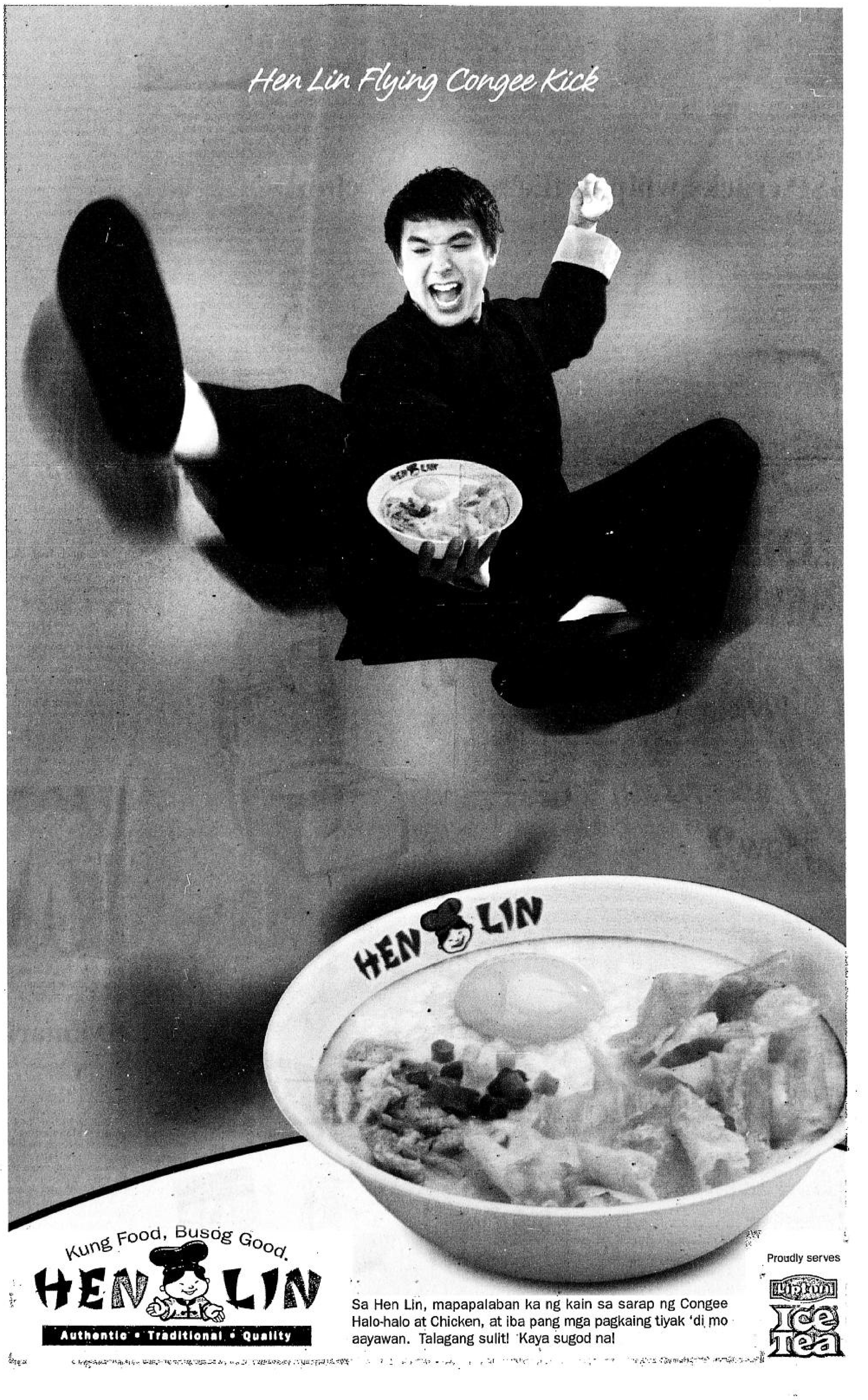
School, as well as the other companies he worked with in the past, also taught him the importance of leadership and discipline.

"I always felt I had good leadership skills. I did fairly well in school and I'm also lucky to have had good mentor relationships in the companies where I used to work," he says.

Before working at eSoft, Finn served as senior vice president for telecommunications software solutions company Evolving Systems Inc.

As SVP, he played a key role in developing and marketing several products that established the company as a market leader in its field.

CEO /C3



Sa Hen Lin, mapapalaban ka ng kain sa sarap ng Congee Halo-halo at Chicken, at iba pang mga pagkaing tiyak 'di mo aayawan. Talagang sulit! Kaya sugod na!

THE BRASS template was used to print the official currency of the Philippines in 1851 issued by El Banco Espanol Filipino de Isabel 2, the forerunner of the Bank of the Philippine Islands. The currency was called *pesos fuertes*, which, in Spanish, meant "strong pesos."

AFTER liberation, BPI continued to do business as seen in these post-liberation accounts (1942-1945).

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

BPI walks through memory lane

ONE of the most significant documents in the collection is the bank's first annual report, the *Memoria 1853 del Banco Espanol Filipino de Isabel 2.* The first *Memoria* details the bank's actual operations from May 1, 1852 to April 30, 1853.

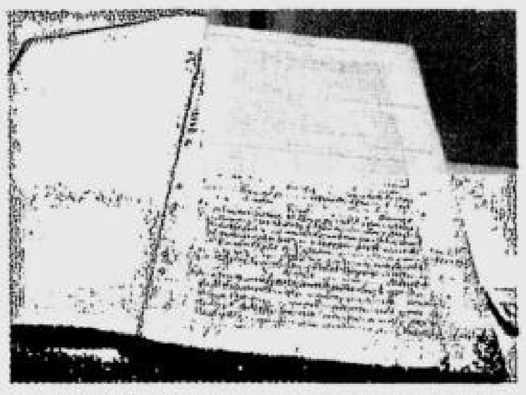
By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands celebrates this month its 150th year of operation as the first bank in the Philippines and in the Far East.

To celebrate the occasion, the bank called on its officers and customers, as well as checked its archives for memorabilia, to illustrate its history.

The bulk of the items came from officers and employees as well as clients of BPI and its subsidiary companies. Some came all the way from Cagayan de Oro, and another one, a metal coin bank from Benjamina Andrews, was sent in from California, USA.

The treasure trove of currencies and rare memorabilia on Philippine banking is being exhibited at the ground floor of the BPI main office at the corner of Ayala Ave. and Paseo de Roxas in Makati City.



A MAJOR historical document is a large transaction record book of the bank, which contains in detail the transaction entries from May 10,1855 to Oct. 31, 1857. These entries were written in Spanish and in beautiful longhand.

BSP cracks whip at the 'old boys' club'

(From page C1)

"Banks were used as an instrument for speculation and that is as far as we are willing to admit," he said. The BAP, he said, was confident, that none of its more than 40 members were "willfully" speculating against the peso.

Coronel explained that some of the central bank's regulations date back to the '90s and some new policies were not communicated well down to the branches.

He added that some of the new violations were practices that used to be allowed.

"The public must understand that there was a time that these transactions that are now prohibited were allowed. There was a time when the BSP was not this strict, understandably because the peso was also not volatile," he explained.

Old habits, said Coronel, simply die hard.

What the BAP intends to do, said Coronel, is to hold a general assembly to communicate with its members that the BSP means business this time. Each bank will have to re-educate its ranks and ensure that the executives observe command responsibility.

Buenaventura said the central bank would not accept "miscommunication" as an excuse and further warned banks that any of them found directly speculating against the peso will face heavier penalties.

He said the BSP won't have qualms of suspending their foreign exchange licenses alongside suspending bank officers including the president if more violations crop up.

Coronel insisted that banks, as a rule, do not play with the peso.

"Why will banks volunteer to bring down their overbought limit to $5,000 if their intention was to speculate against the currency? I think that would be inconsistent," he said.

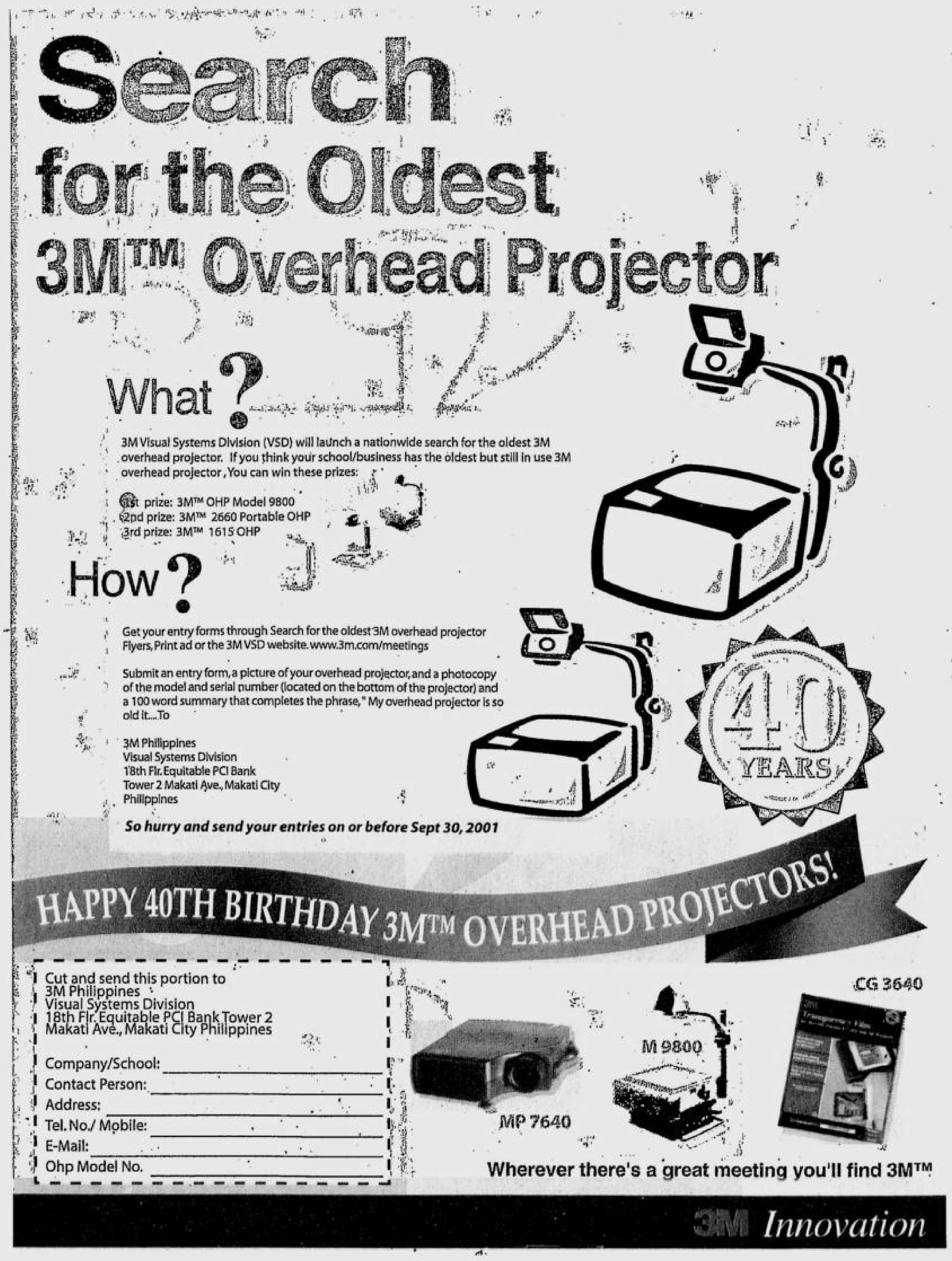
He lamented that banks, especially the nine that had been named, are now paying the price of what was a simple communication problem. "We have learned the lesson and we have to pay the price," he said.

Buenaventura said the BSP used to get the feeling that banks were not taking them seriously.

With a "scarlet letter S" on their foreheads, the nine banks and the others to follow, as the BSP chief had promised, better start behaving.

The next time, the central bank may have to get even more personal and publish the names of the officers who transacted the ill-fated deal.

Shame on you guys, said Buenaventura.



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MAP code of ethics

MAPping the Future

Santiago F. Dumlao JR.

THE MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines (MAP) has a National Issues Committee, chaired by Evelyn R. Singson, with 71 members. The Committee is into a lot of activities including advocacy on major issues of national concerns, as might be expected. But it is very interventionist in its posture.

For example, it is offering volunteer consultants for free to government agencies, starting with the MAP-DTI and the MAP-DILG consultancy projects with Helen Macasaet as project manager. It has proposed an Educational Modernization Program, to be implemented initially in Quezon City, with Joel Valdes as project manager. It has a "Management of LGUs: Making Makati the Model City" project with Fernando Martin Peña as project manager.

Then the committee realized that before anything else, MAP should adopt and enforce a Code of Ethics as a set of standards by which MAP members should be measured to "qualify" them before they even start telling others what to do.

This is the MAP Code of Ethics by which we in MAP wish to be judged. We will strive to be faithful to these.

1. Stewardship. I acknowledge that I am but a STEWARD of all the talents, abilities and resources placed by the Almighty God in my possession, and at my disposal. Therefore I must use these always in a manner that glorifies Him who is the source of all good things, in accordance with His good purpose.

2. Self-improvement. I take it as my personal obligation as a steward to keep on improving and enhancing my God-given talents and abilities, through continuing self-education, and I shall provide opportunities in my organization for my co-workers to improve and enhance their own talents and abilities.

3. Respect for people. As a Manager of people, I shall always treat my co-workers with respect, recognizing their uniqueness as individuals and their need to be differently motivated to bring out the best in them.

4. Honesty. Honesty shall be the cornerstone of all my actions, realizing that honesty is the bedrock of trust, for without trust there can be no meaningful relations between and among people. Therefore, I shall not lie, cheat or steal. Honesty can never be compromised.

5. Loyalty. For as long as I belong to an organization, I shall give it my total loyalty, promoting its interest at all times. I believe that immoral or illegal acts will never promote the interest of the organization.

I shall bring to the attention of the proper authorities in the organization any transaction or event, present or prospective, that is immoral or illegal so that it can be stopped or avoided, or any ill consequences rectified, all in the interest of the organization and of right conduct.

6. Conflict of interest. I shall avoid all actions or situations that could give rise to a conflict of interest with my organization. If by developments not anticipated I find myself in a potential conflict-of-interest situation, I shall disclose it to the proper parties and refrain from participating in any decision-making or avoid any kind of involvement which could cause doubt or give rise to questions to my integrity.

7. Fairness. I shall always be fair in all my dealings with all persons, giving each person his or her own due, never taking undue advantage of others.

I shall not do to others what I do not want others to do to me.

Even as I pursue to be competitive in my business, I shall be fair in dealing with my competitors, never undertaking any deceptive or malicious marketing tactics, and never engaging in product misinformation or misrepresentation to put down the competition.

I shall not deliberately produce, distribute, sell or offer to sell goods and services which are harmful and prejudicial to the health and welfare of customers, or which are offensive to morals or violate the dignity of the human person.

8. Obedience to authority. I shall always show respect to all legitimate authorities, accepting the rule of law as a principle valid both for society and the corporate world. I acknowledge that there are established rules to express disagreements and redress grievances, and these rules should be followed in the interest of good order.

I shall meticulously follow the requirements imposed by law, or by industry standards regulating the production, sale or distribution of goods and services, particularly those that are considered hazardous or dangerous.

I shall always deal with government agencies and officials with forthrightness, acknowledging the authority of regulation as part of the requirements of social order.

I shall pay my taxes correctly. I shall not directly or indirectly offer or encourage others to bribe or accept bribes in government transactions.

9. Discipline and due process. As a manager, I shall enforce discipline in the organization with firmness and fairness, observing the tenets of due process in every circumstance, always dispensing justice with a heart.

10. Obligations to community. I acknowledge that I have obligations to the community and the place that hosts my company and business operations, and I shall pursue my company's activities with due regard to my host community's interests.

11. Environment. I accept my responsibilities, as manager and as an individual citizen, to protect and conserve the environment, and shall take active part in promoting and upholding the objectives of sustainable development.

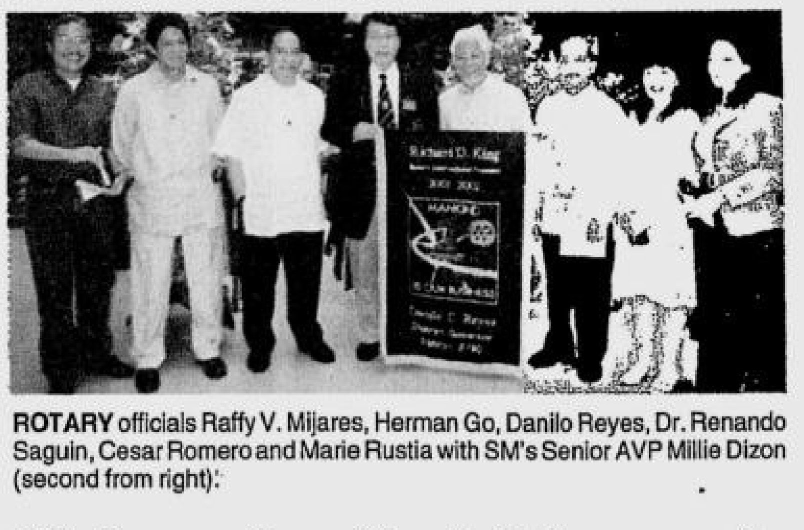
12. Productivity. I accept that it is my responsibility to be productive in the workplace and to allow my coworkers to likewise be productive, avoiding waste in all its form.

Excellence shall be my standard of work performance, and I shall demand this from all who work with me.

13. Teamwork. In the workplace, I realize I need to work with, through and for others. I therefore bind myself to work as a good member of the organizational team, ensuring that my coworkers can always depend on me to do my work assignments properly, and always performing in a constructive manner.

14. Transparency. I shall observe the norms of transparency in all transactions and dealings in which the public has a legitimate interest, making appropriate disclosures as the law requires or as good governance demands.

(The author is member and past president of the Management Association of the Philippines and president of Philippine Rating Services Corporation. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph.)



ROTARY officials Raffy V. Mijares, Herman Go, Danilo Reyes, Dr. Renando Saguin, Cesar Romero and Marie Rustia with SM's Senior AVP Millie Dizon (second from right).

SM marks disability week

SM recently celebrated National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation (NDPR) Week with a job fair and exhibits showcasing the talents and potentials of persons with disabilities.

The Job Fair for the Disabled is a project of SM Foundation, the Department of Labor, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the National Council for the Welfare of the Disabled. It drew hundreds of applicants. Twenty-two were hired on the spot and 470 were scheduled for further interview.

Participating companies included Platinum Plans Philippines, Pacific Plans, Bench, Jollibee Pasig, Asia Food Little Ceasar, Innodata Philippine Corp., New Creation Marketing Corp., the Phil Asia Group of Companies, Total Integrated Globe Employment RES Inc., Health Network Inc., Stork Philippines Inc., Tiger Alpha Automotive Assistance Inc., Genetic Computer Institution, and CBC Supermarket.

Disabled livelihood groups also held an exhibit of their products, impressing shoppers with their skills in crafting home items and accessories. These included the Philippine Alternative Trade Supply, DSWD-RSW-NCR, Bigay Buhay Multipurpose Coop, Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, Tala Development Coop, and May Kapansanan ng Zamboanga. Highlighting the exhibit was a demonstration of abaca rug making by blind weavers and neck-and-shoulder massage services from the Association of Visually Impaired Masseurs.

During the same time the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the National Anti-Poverty Commission (PWD Council), SM Foundation, and the City of Mandaluyong also held a travelling art exhibit entitled Four Artists Make a Difference.

Four Artists Make a Difference is a collection of 20 paintings made by four talented visual artists with visual impairment, hearing impairment, orthopedical handicap, and developmental Disability.

SM/ C3

CEO follows principles in raising kids to run his firm

(From page C1)

Prior to that, Finn co-founded Prairie Systems, where he designed and launched a number of innovative telecommunications software products and services.

His years of experience taught him how to handle his people well through proper guidance and "mentoring."

And as with raising children, "mentoring" employees meant setting expectations and establishing a culture of accountability.

"They have to know what is expected of them," he says.

Finn also uses the fundamentals of sports in managing eSoft.

As a sportsman, he believes that sports and business have a lot of parallels.

"Sports teaches you values that are true in most aspects of business. First, the value of teamwork. You have to get the best out of people and do your best to support them. Second, competition. You have to break down into parts how you can accomplish the objective of winning," he says.

Finn says these concepts in sports are basic foundations for elements required to be successful in business.

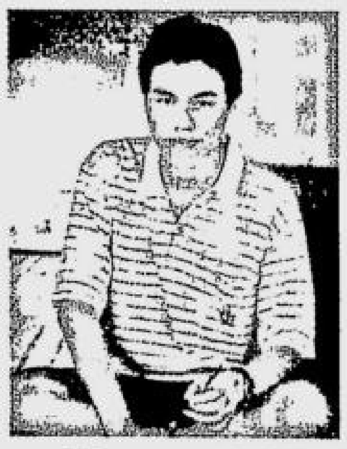
But, most especially, Finn believes that leadership and good management come from years of experience.

"What you are now is the end-result of all your experiences," he says.

And this philosophy he teaches his children, as well as his employees.

SM . . . (From page C2)

ENRICO RAMOS won the Philip Morris Art Competition top award in 1997.



ANGELO MENDOZA has been an awardee in several art contests like the 1997 Shell Competition and 1998 Metrobank annual art contest.

APPLICANTS are interviewed during the job fair.

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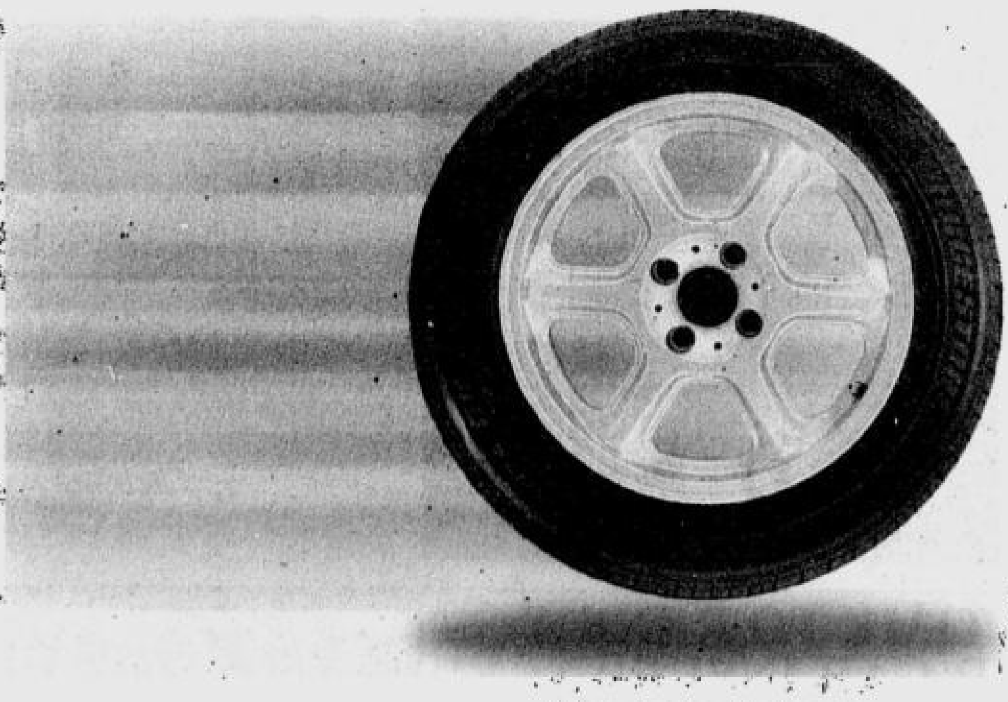

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BRIDGESTONE
A GRIP ON THE FUTURE

Breaking down barriers to small business lending

By Myrna Rodriquez-Co

WHOEVER it was who griped that a bank is someone who lends an umbrella when the sun is shining and withholds it when it is raining must be a financially distressed and very disappointed small businessman.

By and large, bank's are not exactly knocking on small business doors and wooing them with their loan offers. Or why else did government have to legislate small business lending?

The Magna Carte for Small and Medium Enterprises, enacted in 1991 and amended in 1997—made it mandatory for banks—public and private—to set aside for small and medium enterprises a certain part of their credit portfolio. Although banks generally complied with the law, according to a BSP report dated June 2000, this was not without initial opposition from the banking sector itself, which raised fears that intermediation and lending rates might increase and the credit market be further distorted.

It is easy to see why a typical bank might feel it doesn't make good business sense to transact a loan for a small business borrower.

SORRY WE'RE CLOSED
SMEs

Barriers to small business lending

Lending to SMEs is associated with high transaction costs and thin profit margins. Any banker worth his salt will tell you that it costs as much to process a P100-million loan as to handle another worth, say, P500,000. It is estimated that the average small business loan is P1 million—too small to allow a bank to recoup its costs or make a profit. A typical small firm's cash flow is also deemed too limited and too uncertain to service the debt.

The same banker would also tell you that small businesses are high-risk creditors because they are extremely volatile and vulnerable to market ups and downs. Their viability is often in question because many of them are bound to fail.

In the Philippines, a study made by the University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) revealed that four out of five small companies are likely to close down within five years of operation. Moreover, there is not enough economic and financial information about them, which makes it difficult for banks to underwrite small business loans.

Small businesses have financing service wants that most banks are hard-pressed meeting. SMEs want loans to be low-interest and long-term. They want their lenders to ease up on collateral and paper requirements. They need services beyond loans, including general business advice, training and assistance on a variety of topics, from cash management techniques to investment and industry trends, among others. These are extras that an ordinary bank may not be willing nor be able to provide.

Other impediments

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reveals other barriers to small business lending:

One impediment relates to environmental risk-taking. Banks are now being constrained to incorporate environmental sensitivity assessments, as well as other restrictions into their loan screening and approval process. These restrictions often imply additional investments, which small business borrowers can ill afford, given their resource limitations.

Another is the new banking trend, which puts importance on building long-term relationships between borrower and lender.

In many cases, small business borrowers with longer banking relationships pay relatively lower interest rates, and are less likely to be required to pledge collateral than other small firms. While relationship banking can often benefit both banker and borrower, it nevertheless puts start-up and less established businesses at a disadvantage.

Breaking barriers

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) is bent to puncture through some of the blocks to small business lending with a number of innovative financing programs it will launch this year.

One of these programs is the Industrial Support and Services Expansion Program, Phase 2 (Issep II), a Y35.35-billion loan facility from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the expansion needs of small- and medium-scale manufacturing and non-manufacturing enterprises.

The loan facility tries to answer a small businessman's typical wish list in a credit program. Lower-than-market interest rates, repayment term of up to 15 years, a wide array of loan uses including research and development, training and working capital, loan amounts of up to P100 million—these are loan features, which SMEs would find hard to find elsewhere. The loans are available not only in DBP and its branch offices in the regions but also through its network of over 100 participating financial institutions (PFIs).

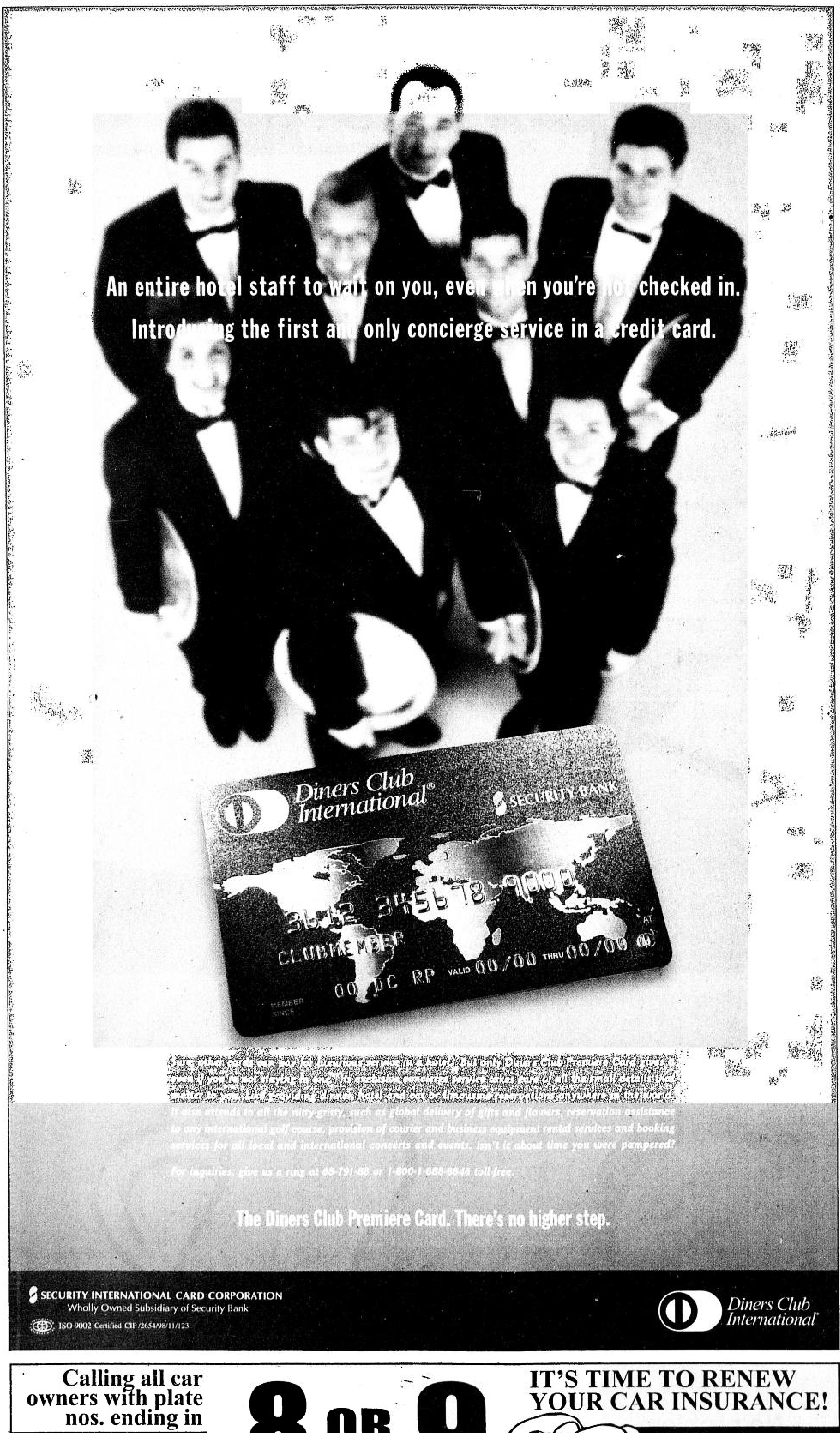
By channeling Issep funds through a countrywide network of commercial, rural, development and savings banks, DBP helps the private banking sector overcome traditional blocks to small business lending. The wholesale loans available to PFIs for relending—soft, long-term and substantial—should also assist the banks to enter into long-term relationships with their borrowers, thus jumpstarting them into an era of relationship banking with SMEs.

According to Marietto A. Enecio, DBP vice president for Industrial Restructuring and Research, Issep II pursues the DBP's vision of being an advocate and champion for the Filipino "entreprenyor."

Issep II is being touted as "financing plus" or financing with a premium. "We are not talking premium interest rates here," quips Enecio, "as Issep II actually charges lower than market rates." Rather, the "premium" in Issep refers to a range of technical and management services, which small enterprises need in order to improve their ability to apply the loans for the purposes for which they were taken.

Issep II is also DBP's way of extending a safety net to small enterprises adversely affected by globalization trends. "With the lifting of protective tariffs, small firms are vulnerable to the onslaught of competition—competition coming from all conceivable sources. SMEs are hurting. They need more funds to acquire technology, develop new products, produce in volume, enter new markets, and improve quality in order to survive the tight competition."

(DBP's Industrial Restructuring and Research Center (IRRC), which is handling the Issep II's Technical Assistance Component, may be reached at Tel. 867-3221.)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LIFESTYLE Arts Design

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ **LITO B. ZULUETA**, Subsection Editor

Cecile Licad debuts with Asian Youth Orchestra

BY PABLO A. TARIMAN

THE PHILIPPINES' pride, Cecile Licad, joins the ranks of distinguished soloists (Yo Yo Ma, Alicia de Larrocha, etc.) of the Asian Youth Symphony when she debuts with the orchestra at the CCP on Aug. 17.

Licad is soloist in Rachmaninoff's Variations on a Theme by Paganini under the baton of Romanian conductor Sergiu Commisiona. This piece was last played by Licad 10 years ago with the PPO under the baton of Piero Gamba. What we shall hear on Friday will give us a clue as to how the Filipina pianist has evolved with that piece which she has recorded with Claudio Abbado.

The latest from Licad is that she is making waves in Europe with German cellist Alban Gerhardt. In the US, her fans are growing with every standing ovation she receives as orchestra soloist and recitalist.

The rave of US critics now is her all-Chopin recital she earlier played in Washington, D.C., which got a superb review from the Washington Post.

Another performance at Rockford College courtesy of the Mendelssohn Club had critic Peter Szatmary saying that Licad had "displayed moments of transcendent bravura lyricism."

CECILE/p.D2

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AUG GENTXT gigguide

Friday Nights

R&B Nights
at H20 Cebu

Bump 'n grind to the latest R&B sounds at H20! All GENTXTers get in for free, and if you arrive from 8PM to 10PM, you'll get a free iced tea and Nacho Picante. Just present your GENTXT card at the door.

Time:	8:00 PM, every Friday of August
Venue:	H20, Cebu

Saturday Nights

Weepac
at National Sports Grill

Party in Manila's premiere sports-themed restaurant! Free entrance to all GENTXTers, with free soda going to GENTXTers who will come in from 9PM to 11PM. Just present your GENTXT card at the door.

Time:	9:00 PM, every Saturday of August
Venue:	National Sports Grill, Greenbelt Mall

17

"Shrek"
Advanced Screening

Funnyman Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, and Cameron Diaz star in this wonderful animated comedy about a princess, an ogre, and his donkey. 50 GENTXTers will each win a pair of tickets.

Time:	7:30 PM
Venue:	Glorietta 4, Cinema 6

18

GODSKITCHEN
A Deliciously Stylish Night of 21st Century Disco featuring DJ AJ Gibson.

UK Superclub GODSKITCHEN storms into Manila with a massive ultra-cool dance party that's sure to be a feast for the eyes AND ears. Existing GENTXTers just need to flash their GENTXT card at the entrance to get in for only P100!

Time:	10:00 PM
Venue:	Glorietta Mall Activity Center

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Time:	August 3-18
Venue:	Tower Records / Music One

25

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Movie Night

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Time:	7:30 PM
Venue:	Glorietta 4, Cinema 3 THX

31

Rage Night
(in cooperation with 99.5RT)

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Time:	8:00 PM
Venue:	Hard Rock Cafe, Glorietta 3

how to win tickets:

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2. Lucky members will be informed on August 15, via text message through 8436898, if they won tickets and the specific movie/event they can attend. Please save this text message.
3. Winners can claim their tickets at the venue of the specified event. Look for the GENTXT representative, show your GENTXT card, valid ID with photo and the saved message to get your tickets.
4. See flyers or visit www.gentxt.org for more details.

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Per DTI-NCR #1227 Series of 2001

Cecile Licad debuts with Asian Youth Orchestra

(From page D1)

Singling out Chopin's Ballade in G Minor, Op. 23, Szatmary talked of the marriage of grace and virtuosity.

He wrote: "She was as fluid—seemingly effortless and placid but brimming and powerful—as a waterfall, building up to a melodious sweeps and waving crescendos that were intimately engulfing and psychologically billowing...Conveying absolute acceptance, she was Chopin's vessel, a medium, not an interpreter but a conduit. When she was most transported is when her recital was most transportive."

Honestly, I take more interest on what laymen think of Licad's performance because their reactions come straight from the heart, not from musical erudition.

Take this letter to the editor by Susan Riebel, who wrote to Daily Courier after hearing Licad play Rachmaninoff's Variations with the Phoenix Symphony under the baton of Samuel Wong. "As Ms Licad began to play Variations on a Theme by Paganini, I found myself slipping into another dimension! I felt as though I was inside the tips of her fingers having the ride of my life and enjoying the tumble and gymnastics as much as I saw Cecile herself enjoying her ride. It seemed as though some powerful force greater than the pianist herself [for her fingers] were playing the keys. When the performance ended, I wanted to jump out of my seat, run onto the stage and embrace that talent! I contained myself the best I could and used my arms to jump up and down in the air instead of my feet."

Robert Mueller, a New York music lover and certified classical music specialist who watched Licad play Mozart's 14th piano concerto several years back, complained that she is often heard in Europe these days than in New York. He also complained he had a hard time looking for her recording of the Tchaikovsky Trio with Nadja Sonnenberg and Antonio Meneses.

He wrote Licad: "Two of your recorded performances in particular are extraordinary, the Saint-Saens concerto and that great, great piece, the G Minor Ballade. I've compared the ballad with recordings of that work by Cortot and Kissin, and I've no trouble whatsoever pronouncing yours as the best of the three. Really, what you have done with that piece is quite wonderful, and there's a moment near the very end where the sparkle of your playing is captivating beyond description."

There is also one more concert on Saturday (Aug. 17) that you should not miss: American violinist Leila Josefowitz, who is soloist in the Mendelssohn concerto with the same orchestra.

Like Licad, she is a product of Curtis and like Licad's Rach 2 recording that hit the top Billboard chart in the '80s, Josefowitz's recording of the Tchaikovsky and Sibelius violin concertos sold more than 50,000 copies in its first six months.

But at 23, Josefowitz is married to a young Estonian conductor Kirstjan Jarvi and now a mother of a baby boy named Lukas.

Like Licad, Josefowitz has outgrown her child prodigy years and living life to the fullest (a Filipino prodigy whose specialty is joining competitions year after year can learn a lot about living real life from her).

Asked how she lives her life at the moment, she told a writer of Classical FM magazine: "You know what the Buddhists say? That one of the most important things in life is to live in the moment—to feel the rhythm of life, to hear the silence and be part of it. There are a lot more spontaneous things going on in my music right now because I am living in the moment, much more now than I ever have before."

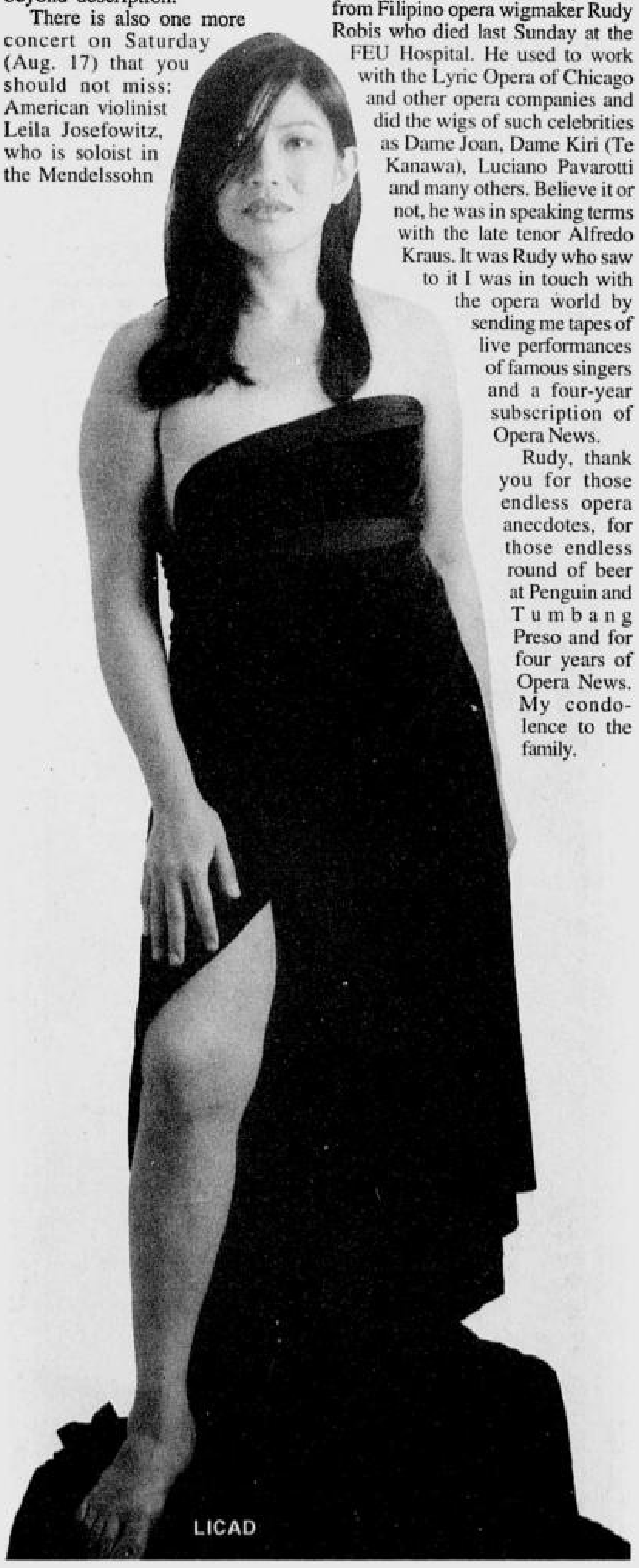
Seeing my first honest-to-goodness Buddhist monks in Bangkok in a Thai temple last week. I guess I know what Josefowitz is talking about.

There are musicians who live music to the hilt and forget to live life.

Wigmaker's passage

Last July 30 in a Bangkok restaurant, I cracked a joke about how Dame Joan Sutherland would ask the stage manager to check if there was broccoli in between her teeth before her big aria. The national artist of Thailand was beside himself with laughter. That joke originally came from Filipino opera wigmaker Rudy Robis who died last Sunday at the FEU Hospital. He used to work with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and other opera companies and did the wigs of such celebrities as Dame Joan, Dame Kiri (Te Kanawa), Luciano Pavarotti and many others. Believe it or not, he was in speaking terms with the late tenor Alfredo Kraus. It was Rudy who saw to it I was in touch with the opera world by sending me tapes of live performances of famous singers and a four-year subscription of Opera News.

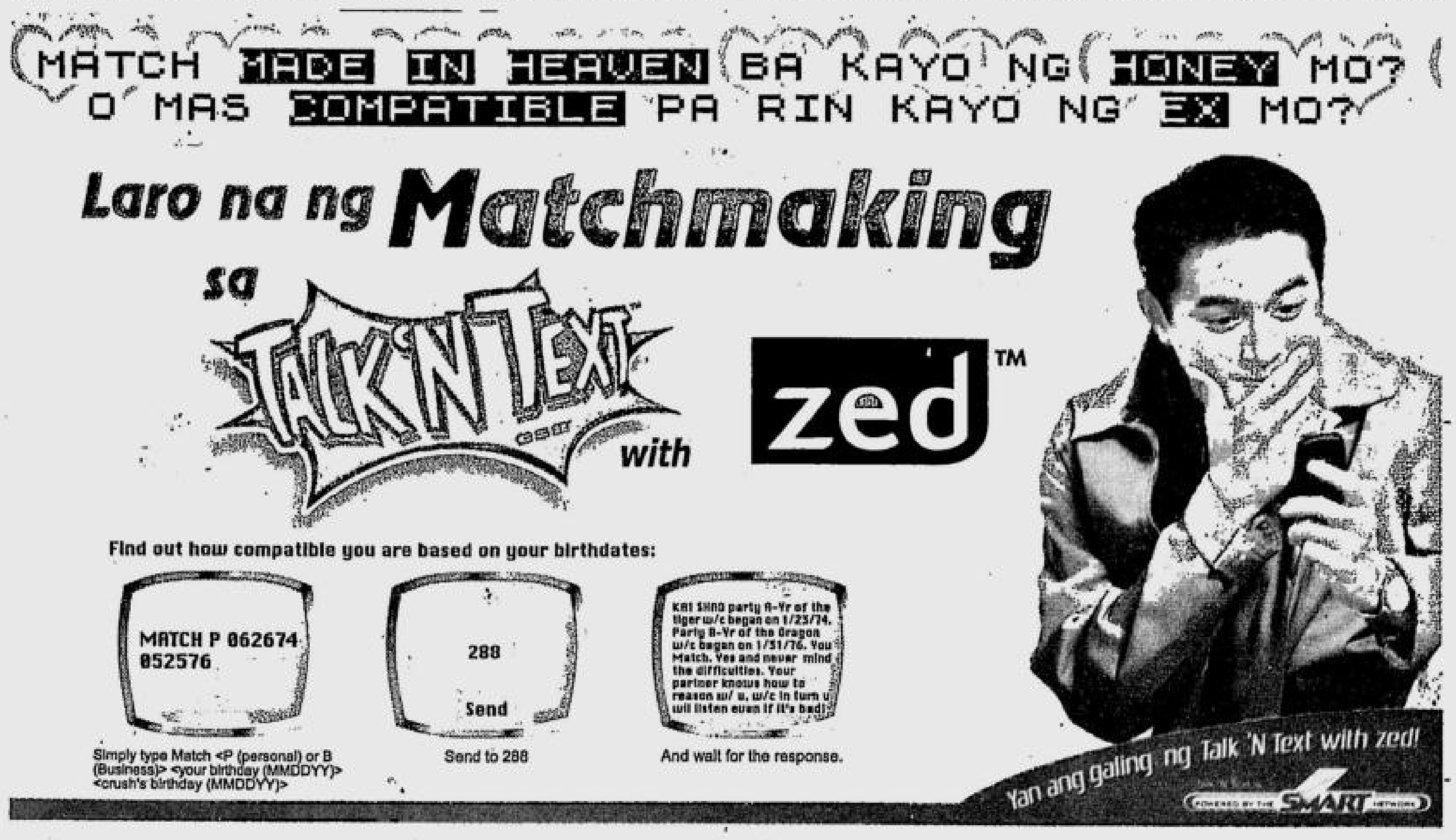
Rudy, thank you for those endless opera anecdotes, for those endless round of beer at Penguin and Tumbang Preso and for four years of Opera News. My condolence to the family.



LICAD

All-Filipino classical concert at Sta. Isabel College

TO MARK Linggo ng Wika, the Santa Isabel College of Manila will present a solo recital of Philippine music in piano and marimba titled "Mga Tugtuging Pilipino," featuring Ernestina I. Crisologo, international concert pianist and marimbist and Sta. Isabel College Music faculty member. It will be held on Aug. 15, 3 p.m., at the College Sto. Cristo del Tesoro Auditorium. She will be accompanied by Venice Tamayo. The Sta. Isabel Music Guild Choir will also present "Musika, Musika" by Ryan Cayabyab to be conducted by Ricardo Mazo, SIC faculty member.



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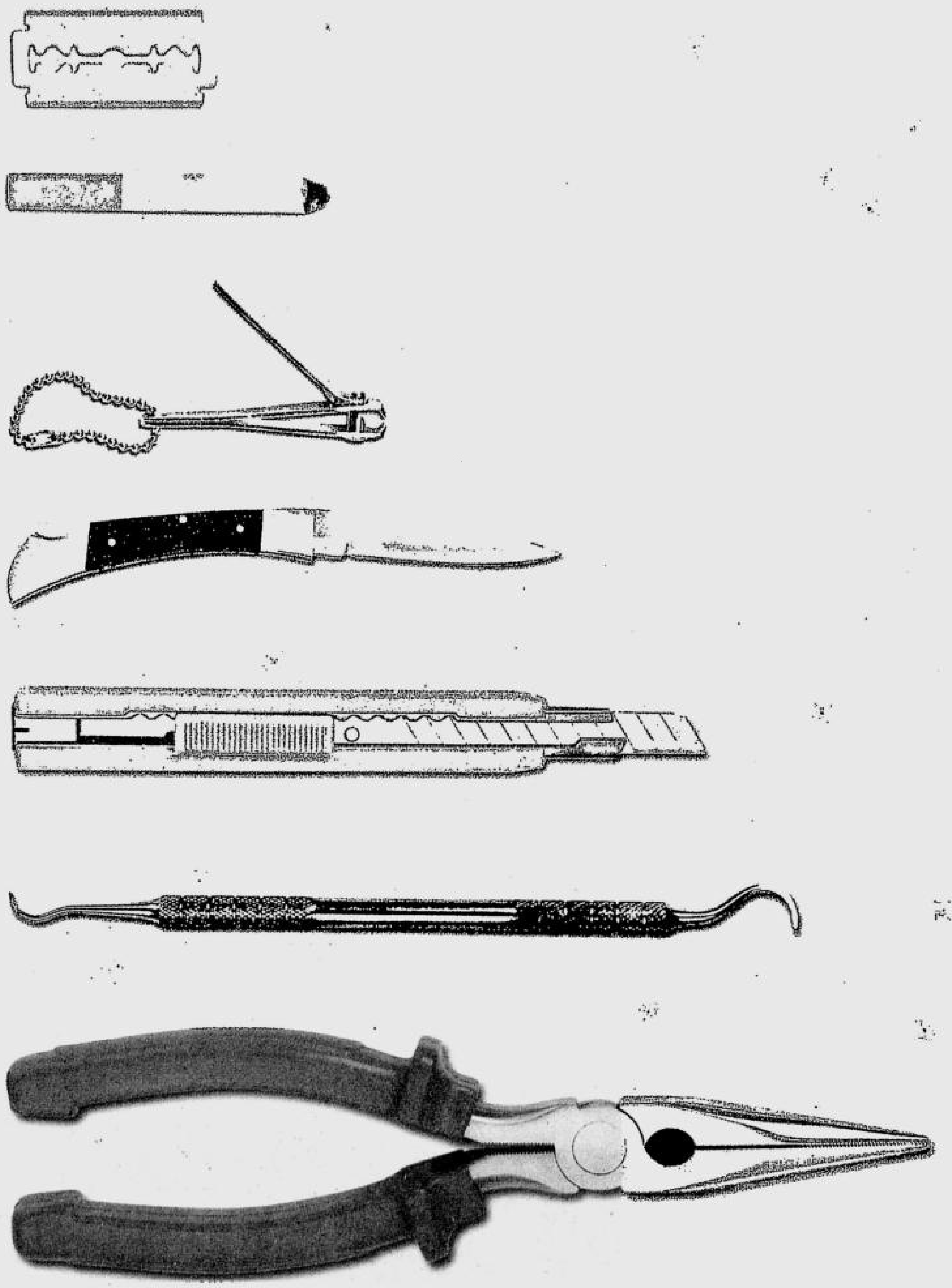

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Exhibit at Sanitarium, Dalena at Lopez Museum

MANILA Sanitarium Foundation Inc. will hold an art exhibit-sale of various artworks at the lobby of Manila Sanitarium and Hospital, 1975 Donada St., Pasay City, until Aug. 17. Proceeds will benefit the foundation's programs and projects. Call 525-9191.

Meanwhile, Aba Lluch Dalena will hold "Home Works" on Aug.16, 6 p.m., at the Lopez Museum Shop, G/F The Power Plant Mall at Rockwell Center, Makati. Call 898-0981.

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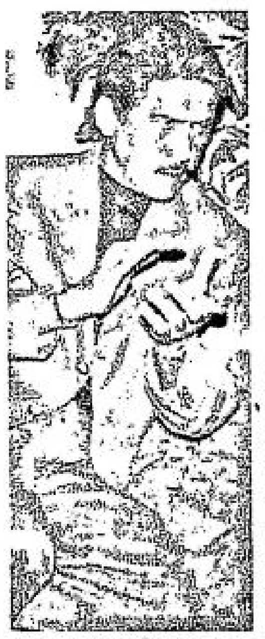
BOOTS Anson Roa emcees

CRITICS ALL. Former and current members of the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino pose for posterity. (From left) Emmanuel Reyes, Alfred Yuson, Isagani Cruz, Rolando Tolentino, Ellen Paglinauan, Bro. Mike Rapatan, F.S.C. (partly hidden), Bienvenido Lumbera, Paul Daza (partly hidden), Tiongson, Mario Hernando, Behn Cervantes, Gigi Javier Alfonso, Lito Zulueta, Butch Francisco and Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.

Toasting the cinema of the '80s



SEN. Tito Sotto

THEATER director Tony Mabesa and Manunuri Bienvenido Lumbera

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

FILMMAKERS and film critics are not exactly the coziest of friends, but last Aug. 9, they came together and broke bread, along with other lovers of Philippine cinema, and witnessed the launching of "The Urian Anthology 1980-1989," the compilation of essays and reviews of the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the society of respected film critics that hands out the annual Gawad Urian.

Published by Antonio Tuviera and edited by film and literature scholar Nicanor G. Tiongson, the anthology is the most definitive document on the Philippine cinema in the 1980s. The fact it was published by a television mogul shows the rather problematic state of the film industry, according to Marichu Perez-Maceda, a stalwart of the movie industry.

But the large attendance last Thursday should show the industry could rally back to its feet. Even former members of the Manunuri were there to celebrate and touch base with current members—after all, it was the Manunuri's 25th anniversary. As most sublime celebrations go, it was a grand production and a cinematic spectacle in itself. For book orders, call 426-6423 to 26 or fax 426-1965 (Grace or Josie).

NICK Tiongson, anthology editor

DIRECTOR Laurice Guillen

DIRECTOR Joel Lamangan

ACTOR Ricky Davao

CONSTITUTIONAL lawyer Haydee Yorac

PRODUCERS Marichu Maceda and Armida Siguion Reyna

CCP chair Bal Endriga

TV mogul and anthology publisher Tony Tuviera

WRITER Bibeth Orteza and director-spouse Carlitos Siguion Reyna

SINGER Ogie Alcasid

'Planet of the Apes' premieres tonight

103.5 K-lite and Warner Bros. with CyberPress, will hold an advance screening of "Planet of the Apes" tonight at 7:30 p.m. at SM Megamall Cinema 11, Mandaluyong City.

"Planet Of Apes," which stars Mark Wahlberg as the astronaut, is a remake of the classic 1968 movie that starred Charlton Heston. The same movie also spawned a number of sequels, animation and television series in the early '70s. Tim Burton ("Sleepy Hollow," "Batman," "Edward Scissorhand") directs this version.

CyberPress, a national organization of information technology (IT) journalists, will be handing out gift items to lucky early ticketholders at the lobby.

British filmfest at Shangri-La Plaza

SHANGRI-LA Plaza Mall, in its continuing advocacy for culture and the arts, once again plays host to British Council's "Light and Shadow," a week-long festival of contemporary British films opening on Aug. 15 with an invitational screening of award-winning director Maric Herman's "Pure Belter."

Six high-quality, contemporary films from UK, which premiered at the Edinburgh International Film Festival, will be featured from Aug. 16-22 at the Cinema 2 of the Shangri-La Plaza. They are "Love's Labours Lost" by Kenneth Branagh, "Wild About Ham" by Decian Lowney, "Wonderland" by Michael Winterbottom, "Hotel Splendide" by Terence Gross, "Saving Grace" by Nigel Cole and "Pure Belter" by Mark Herman.

Writer-director Mark Herman, after his acclaimed hits "Brassed Off" and "Little Voice," creates a heartwarming, bittersweet comedy in "Pure Belter," a tale of two Geordie juveniles, Gerry and Sewell, who are set to pursue their dreams whatever it takes. Sometimes, as short of good planning and common sense as they are of cash, their main enterprise becomes more hilarious than profitable. The farther away their goal seems to be, the more desperate they are to reach it. The story follows a year's changing seasons in the lives of the two boys.

"Saving Grace," Nigel Cole's first feature film, stars Brenda Blethyn who plays Grace Trevethan, a widow who risks losing her wonderful estate because of the huge debts her husband left. To cure her financial ailments, she uses her horticultural talent to raise—and then sell—marijuana plants. But when Grace herself gets caught between the police, some serious London drug pushers and the real estate agents. Audiences will surely turn a blind eye to the law in order to "save Grace."

A SCENE from "Hotel Splendide"

BRENDA Blethyn in "Saving Grace"

Set in present-day London, Michael Winterbottom's 'Wonderland" follows each of three generations of a family through one wintry November weekend during the city's traditional Bonfire Night celebration. Set on location with a small crew, using a hand-held camera, no lights, no slates, no extras, the film tries to capture the everyday experience of life in a big city.

Terence Gross' "Hotel Splendide" follows the Blanche family's attempts to maintain a crumbling, dilapidated hotel and health spa on a remote island off the British coast. As tensions and emotions mount, the hotel takes on a life of its own.

Kenneth Branagh's "Love's Labours Lost" a musical adaptation of Shakespeare's comedy sets the action in the last few days before the start of World War II. The film features musical numbers by Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, and others performed in the classic style of the 1930s MOM musicals.

"Wild About Harry" tells the story of chat show host Harry Mckee (Brendan Gleeson), once a loving husband but now a drunken and unfaithful slob. On the eve of his divorce from his wife Amanda, he is beaten up and falls into a week-long coma. When he wakes up, he has forgotten 25 years of his life. Harry has been given the chance to get back his life, his family and self-respect—if only he could remember how it all went wrong.

Regular daily screenings are 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Call 633-7851, local 106.

Abad continues PLAC lecture series

UP professor and leading poet-critic Gémino H. Abad delivers the second lecture in the Philippine Literary Arts Council's monthly series billed as "Homage" at 1 p.m. on Aug. 16 at the Ariston Estrada Room at De La Salle University on Taft Avenue, Manila.

Abad's lecture is titled "Amador T. Daguio: A Turning Point in Filipino Poetry from English."

The literary council or PLAC has scheduled monthly lectures to be conducted in various university venues all over the country, in tribute to the late great masters of Philippine poetry and fiction.

The series was launched last month at the University of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Studies, with the initial lecture by Alfred "Krip" Yuson on Jose Garcia Villa. Next month will have DLSU Prof. Cirilo F. Bautista lecturing on Oscar de Zuniga at Far Eastern University.

Regarding his upcoming lecture to which the public is invited, Abad writes, "The poems of Amador T. Daguio first persuaded me about my general thesis regarding our writing in English over the last century, namely, that it seeks to recover a country we have lost, but that also, our country now is within ourselves, as it were, a spiritual homeland.

"Daguio is exemplary of that effort because he was able to transform an adopted tongue into a fit instrument for his poetic representations beyond what the English vocabulary and syntax might by their own cultural subscript tend to disfigure. I say that at first our writers wrote in English, but later, they wrought from it; all along, over the past century, our writers have colonized English, by which I mean that it has been remolded to our image."

Playing beautiful music . . .

(From page D8)

Dream come true

When I learned that auditions would again be held for the AYO concert tour in 2000, I knew it was my last chance. I turned 25 in February and the orchestra only accepts musicians who are aged 15-25. Some people say it was the countless hours of practice that made me succeed on this second attempt. Others say it was pure luck. I believe it was a miracle and God's grace at work.

Rehearsals at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts would last for 7½ hours each day, six days a week for three exhausting weeks. The exceptional faculty from major professional orchestras abroad imposed a very high standard of discipline and inspired us to always strive for musical perfection. Conductors Mark Churchill and Sergiu Comissiona opened our ears and minds to new musical ideas and they unstintingly shared with us their knowledge acquired from years of experience with some of the best orchestras in the world. It was unlike anything I had experienced before.

Before leaving for the rehearsal camp in Hong Kong, I knew that I would be among the best musicians in Asia. However, I was not at all prepared for what I was about to see and hear. Many of the musicians, much younger than I, were so disciplined and talented and possessed such excellent technique and musicality that I developed a bad case of inferiority complex. Most of them started learning to play their instruments as early as 7-10 years old while I began my cello studies when I was already 17. I felt I was way behind them and did not belong there. I wanted to pack my bags and go home.

My inferiority complex eventually disappeared when I learned to concentrate on the music and just do my very best. I realized then that music is truly a universal language. Here was a group of people from different cultures and speaking many different languages but who played Brahms' Symphony no.4 with such beauty that it brought me to a different plane of reality. All barriers were transcended and we were just one orchestra playing the ethereal sounds of Beethoven, Brahms, Berlioz, Mozart and Mendelssohn.

Hectic concert tour

Fourteen concerts in 21 days included wake-up calls at 4:30 a.m., 10-hour bus rides, eight-hour airport stopovers and commuting via ferry or subway to concert halls with 103 musicians carrying instruments of various shapes and sizes. Our last stop in Australia after Melbourne and Canberra was Sydney, where we played two concerts as part of the Olympic Arts Festival. The venue was the Sydney Opera House, renowned for its unique architecture and superb acoustics. As part of the 11-year-old AYO tradition, we played Elgar's "Nimrod" from the Enigma Variations, op.36 as an encore at our very last concert. It is a dramatic piece of music that starts with a hushed and subtle mood but develops into a triumphant melody of grand proportions. AYO's artistic director, Richard Pontzious, announced onstage, "Tomorrow, everyone will be going home to 11 different countries and many of them will never see each other again." During the performance of the piece, most of the orchestra members were in tears, feeling the emotions of the music and the moment. Then audiences rose to their feet to applaud.

The lifetime friendships made, the many lessons learned, the places that I visited and performed in, and the beautiful music that I experienced with the AYO will remain with me forever.

Back home in the Philippines, I recently performed two concerts with the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra for grade school and high school students. I looked at the young faces in the audience and consoled myself, thinking that even if just one or two of those children would grow up with an appreciation and love for beautiful music and value for culture and the arts, then the career I have chosen would have been truly worthwhile.

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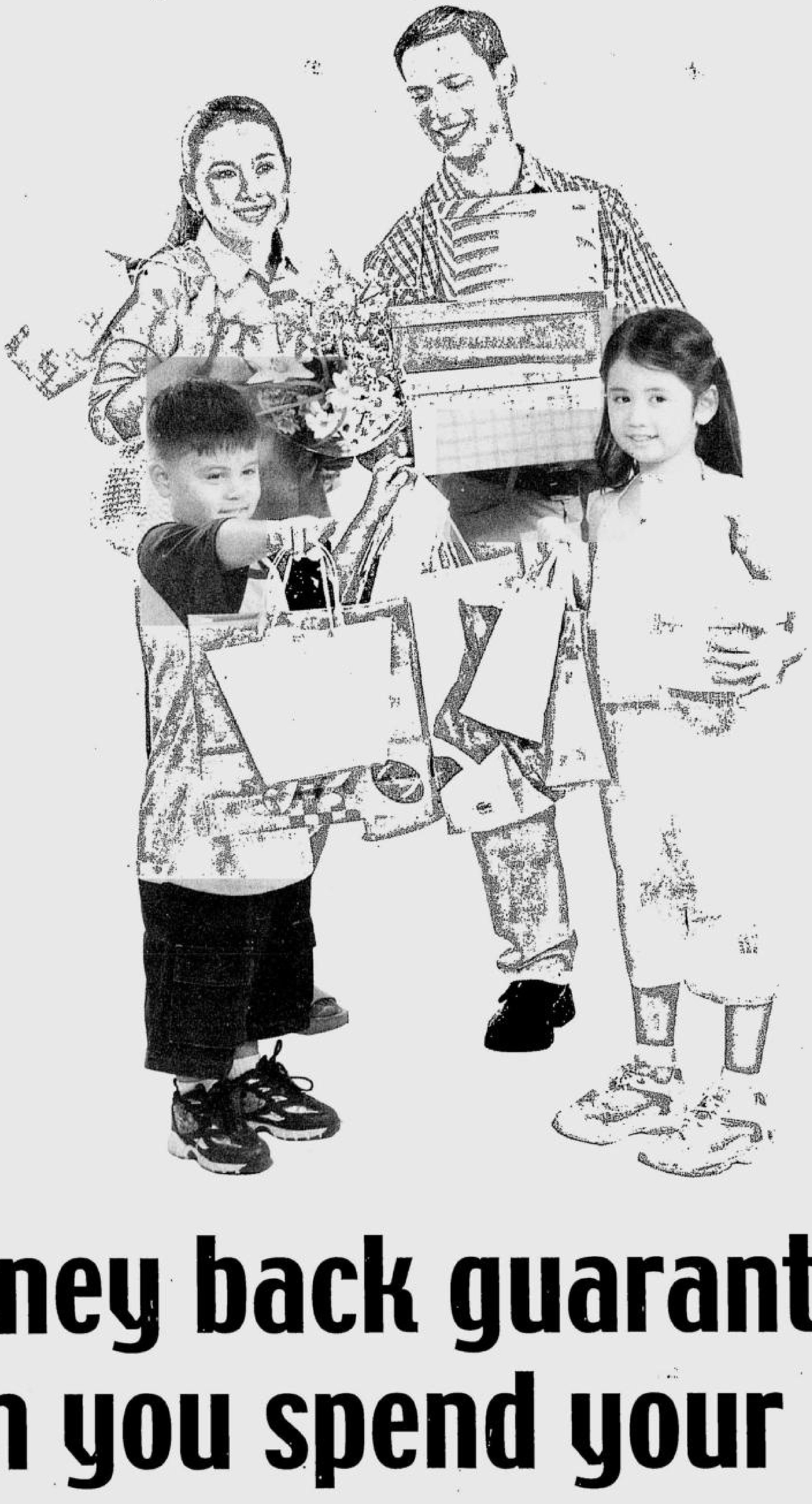

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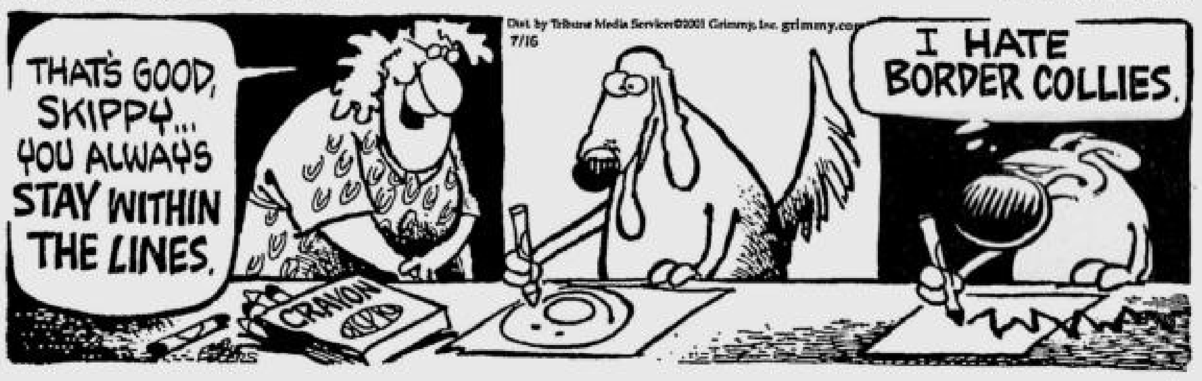
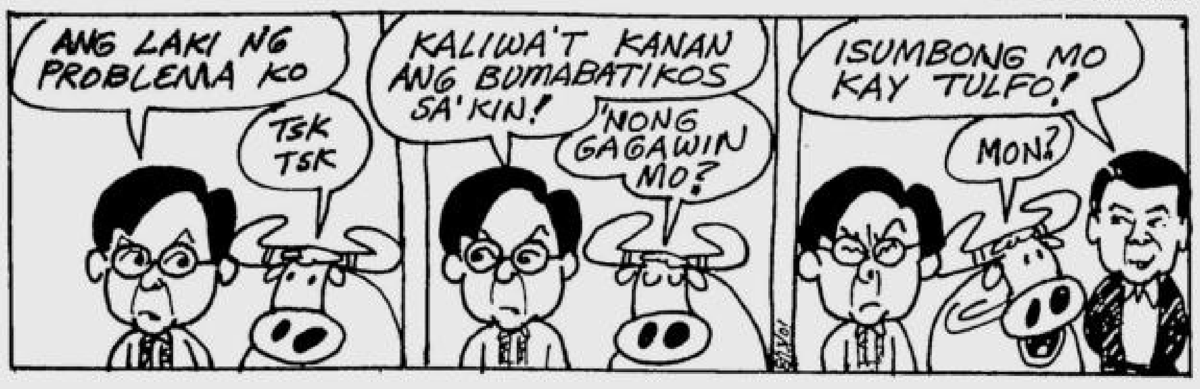
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


Dist. by Tribune Media Services©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com 7/16
THAT'S GOOD, SKIPPY... YOU ALWAYS STAY WITHIN THE LINES.
CRAYON
I HATE BORDER COLLIES.

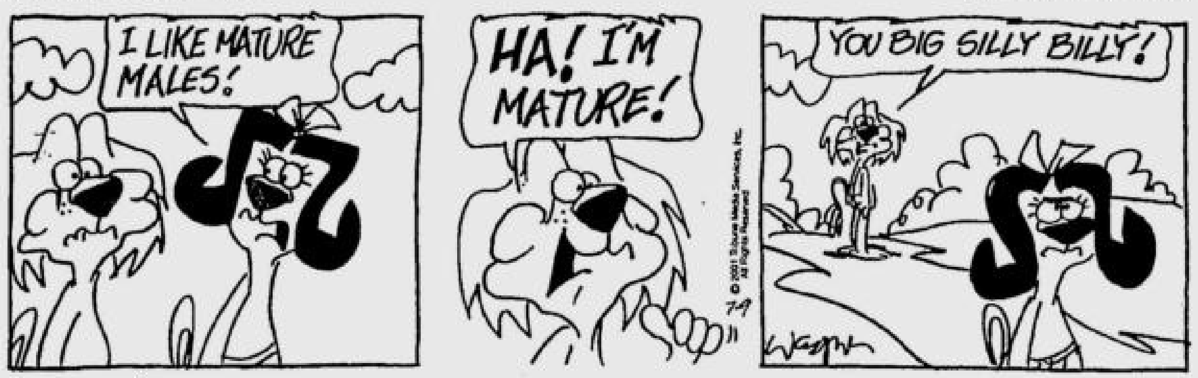
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG LAKI NG PROBLEMA KO
TSK TSK
KALIWA'T KANAN ANG BUMABATIKOS SA'KIN!
'NONG GAGAWIN MO?
ISUMBONG MO KAY TULFO!
MON?

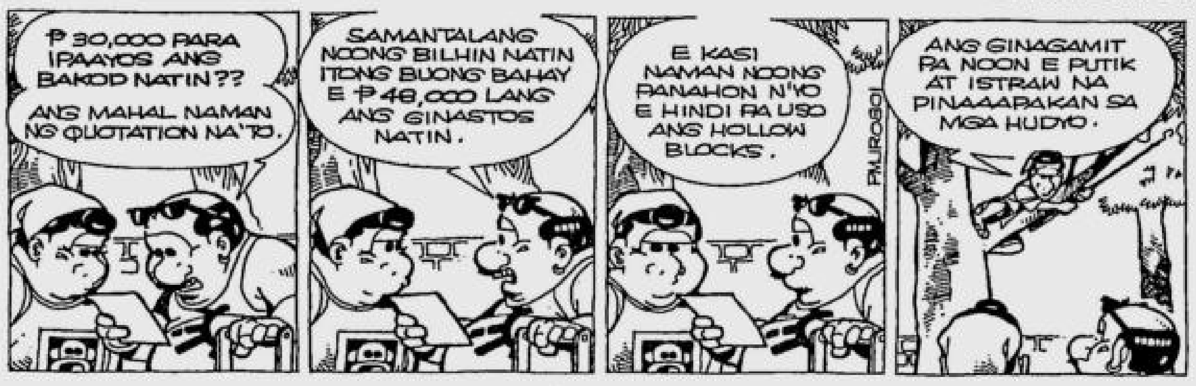
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I LIKE MATURE MALES!
HA! I'M MATURE!
YOU BIG SILLY BILLY!

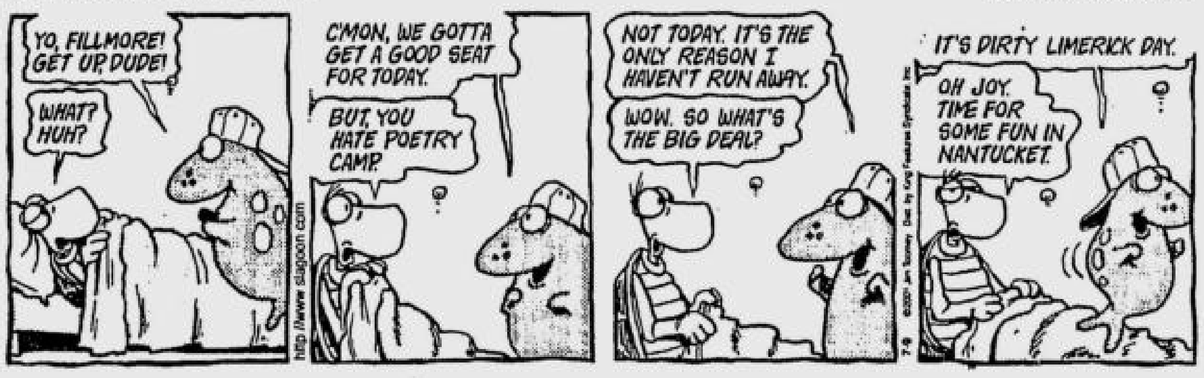
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


₱30,000 PARA IPAAYOS ANG BAKOD NATIN??
ANG MAHAL NAMAN NG QUOTATION NA'TO.
SAMANTALANG NOONG BILHIN NATIN ITONG BUONG BAHAY E ₱48,000 LANG ANG GINASTOS NATIN.
E KASI NAMAN NOONG PANAHON N'YO E HINDI PA USO ANG HOLLOW BLOCKS.
ANG GINAGAMIT PA NOON E PUTIK AT ISTRAW NA PINAAAPAKAN SA MGA HUDYO.
PMJR08

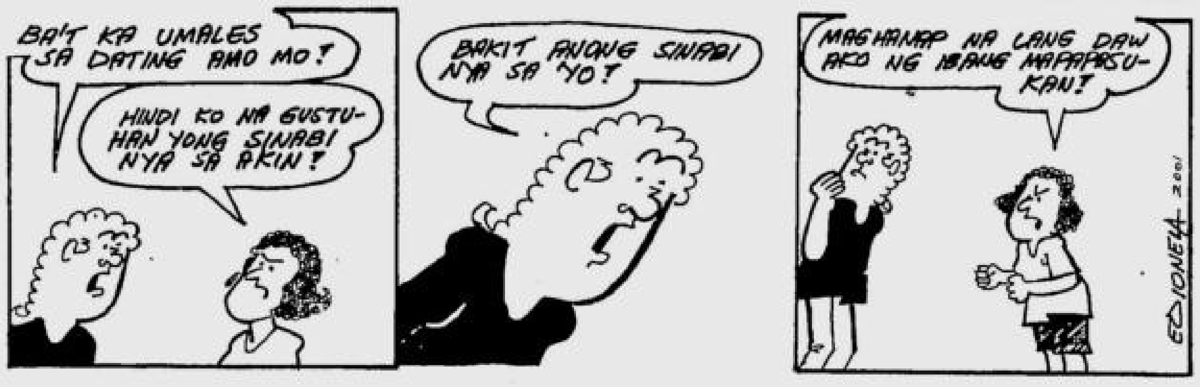
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


YO, FILLMORE! GET UP, DUDE!
WHAT? HUH?
http://www.slagoon.com
C'MON, WE GOTTA GET A GOOD SEAT FOR TODAY.
BUT, YOU HATE POETRY CAMP.
NOT TODAY. IT'S THE ONLY REASON I HAVEN'T RUN AWAY.
WOW. SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
IT'S DIRTY LIMERICK DAY.
OH JOY. TIME FOR SOME FUN IN NANTUCKET.

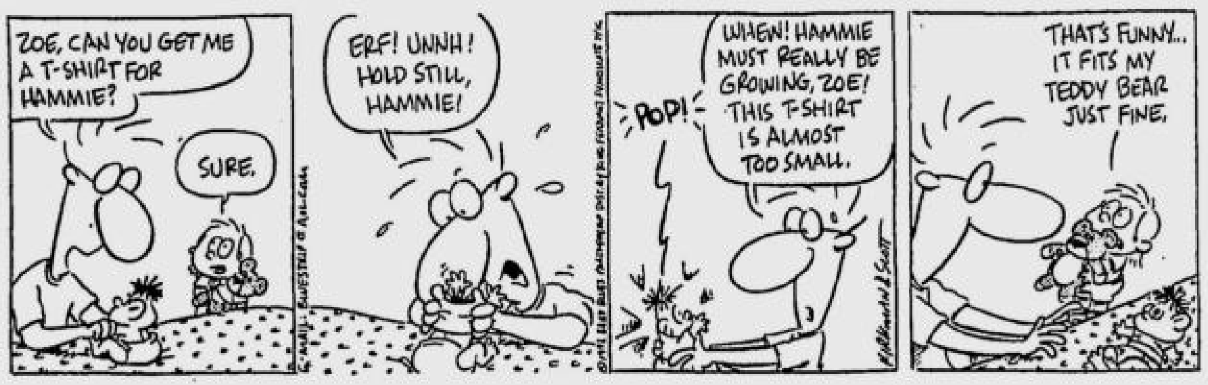
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BA'T KA UMALES SA DATING AMO MO?
HINDI KO NA GUSTUHAN YONG SINABI NYA SA AKIN!
BAKIT ANONG SINABI NYA SA 'YO?
MAGHANAP NA LANG DAW AKO NG IBANG MAPAPASUKAN!
EDIONELA 2001

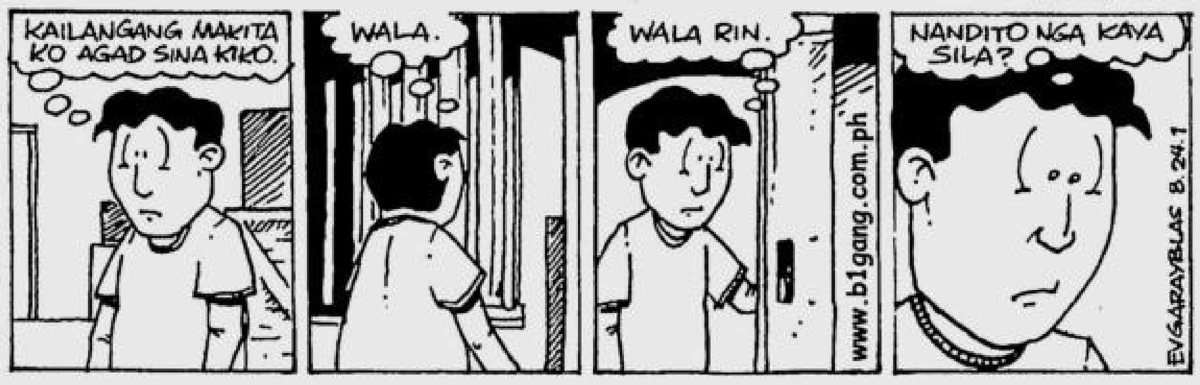
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE, CAN YOU GET ME A T-SHIRT FOR HAMMIE?
SURE.
ERF! UNNH! HOLD STILL, HAMMIE!
POP!
WHEW! HAMMIE MUST REALLY BE GROWING, ZOE! THIS T-SHIRT IS ALMOST TOO SMALL.
THAT'S FUNNY... IT FITS MY TEDDY BEAR JUST FINE.

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


KAILANGANG MAKITA KO AGAD SINA KIKO.
WALA.
WALA RIN.
www.b1gang.com.ph
NANDITO NGA KAYA SILA?
EVGARAYBLAS 8.24.1

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kathleen Battle, Dan Fogelberg, Don Ho, Fidel Castro, Danny Bonaduce

Happy Birthday: You'll be admired for your talents and envied for the positions you acquire. You'll be direct and quick to take advantage of opportunities this year. Focus on the future, not the past, and you will have no regrets as you become more successful. It's time to help yourself instead of someone else. Your numbers: 9, 15, 18, 27, 31, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Someone close to you will be upset if you are insensitive to his or her needs. Take the time to help those less fortunate. You need to fulfill your needs and present your talents.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Opportunities for travel and socializing are evident. Be careful disclosing information. Someone around you may not be trustworthy. Listen to others' problems and offer suggestions where possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be a real chatterbox today. Try to curb your tongue and let others get a word in. After all, they may have valuable information.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Limitations will set in if you haven't followed the rules. You will have difficulties with legal matters, government agencies and authority figures if you aren't precise in your dealings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will meet some interesting people if you attend promotional functions. Your ability to stand out in a crowd will bring the recognition you desire.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will have a problem with your boss if you haven't done your job. Double-check your work and be sure that your boss is in a good mood before you do your presentation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You should be traveling to that exotic destination you've been dreaming about. If you can't get away, make plans to do something special with friends or relatives.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can make some money if you get involved in a conservative financial prospect offered to you. Changes in your home will be beneficial to all involved.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let your mate talk you into going somewhere you'd rather not. Look into alternatives that would better suit both your needs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will need to spend extra time sorting through your work. Someone left a real mess for you to sift through. Don't be too critical. They didn't fully understand what was expected. A second chance will result in good work.

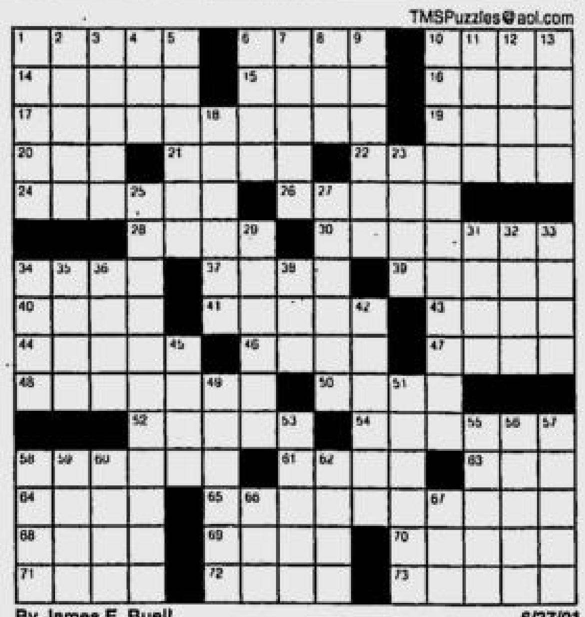
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to challenge yourself. Look into intellectual and physical games that will test your abilities. You can make new friends if you get involved in group activities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't press your luck with loved ones. It is best not to nag or criticize. Be supportive to avoid confrontations. Do your own thing.

Birthday Baby: You are creative and empathetic. You have a unique approach, and with your energetic and entertaining nature will always stand out in a crowd.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

6/27/01

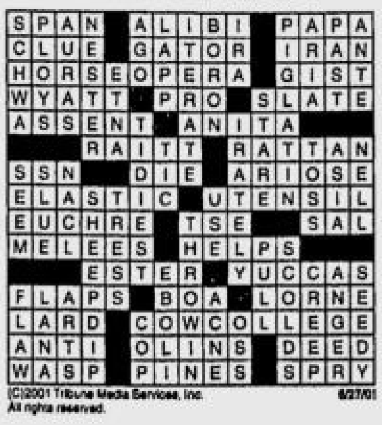
ACROSS

1 Writer Asimov
6 Green shade
10 Pound of poetry
14 Gung-ho
15 Has bills
16 Requirement
17 Not in phase
19 Alum
20 Opp. of SSW
21 Aficionados
22 Language quirks
24 Break one's heart
26 Macho stud
28 Keep in check
30 Pirate Clemente
34 Painter Salvador
37 Yuletide drinks
39 Yarn quantity
40 Norwegian king
41 Rub it in
43 Designate
44 Trademark jeans
46 Vow
47 Poetic works
48 Canted sheds
50 Galvanizing metal
52 Jewish folklore superman
54 Gather, as chips
58 Regrettable
61 Supporting players
63 Actress Merkel
64 Church section
65 Be a fall guy
68 Formal dance
69 Bridge expert Sharif
70 Unchallenged
71 Aperture for coins
72 Irish county
73 Features to count

DOWN

1 Computer images
2 Finn's bath
3 Fed the kitty
4 Brouhaha
5 Colombian export
6 Singer Elton
7 Flooded
8 Yule mo.
9 Inuit
10 Unwelcome sound under the hood
11 Nonentity
12 Paper quantity
13 Tacks on
18 Running out of steam
23 Pats gently
25 Mechanical power transmitter
27 Bad imitation
29 Sure-fire situation
31 Enjoy a novel
32 Duration
33 Individuals
34 Barbie or Ken
35 Sailor's direction
36 Volcano output
38 Tibetan gazelle
42 Dry craving
45 Greek walkway
49 Morris of early golf
51 Mr. Detroit
53 Sportscaster Jim
55 Continental cash
56 Puerile
57 Scruffs
58 Slot fillers
59 Australian gem
60 Capital on a fjord
62 Dynamic opening?
66 MDs' group
67 "Do Ya" grp.

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER



S	P	A	N	■	A	L	I	B	I	■	P	A	P	A
C	L	U	E	■	G	A	T	O	R	■	I	R	A	N
H	O	R	S	E	O	P	E	R	A	■	G	I	S	T
W	Y	A	T	T	■	P	R	O	■	S	L	A	T	E
A	S	S	E	N	T	■	A	N	I	T	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	A	I	T	T	■	R	A	T	T	A	N
S	S	N	■	■	D	I	E	■	A	R	I	O	S	E
E	L	A	S	T	I	C	■	U	T	E	N	S	I	L
E	U	C	H	R	E	■	T	S	E	■	■	S	A	L
M	E	L	E	E	S	■	H	E	L	P	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	S	T	E	R	■	Y	U	C	C	A	S
F	L	A	P	S	■	B	O	A	■	L	O	R	N	E
L	A	R	D	■	C	O	W	C	O	L	L	E	G	E
A	N	T	I	■	O	L	I	N	S	■	D	E	E	D
W	A	S	P	■	P	I	N	E	S	■	S	P	R	Y

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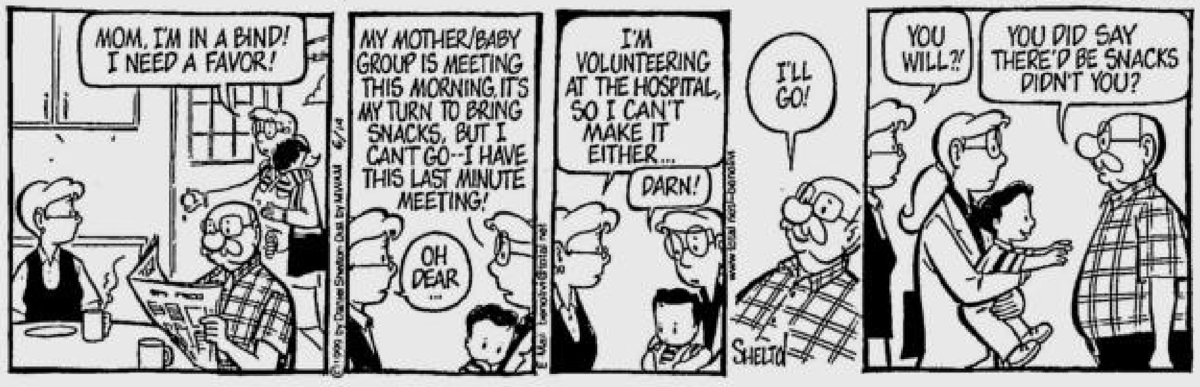
6/27/01

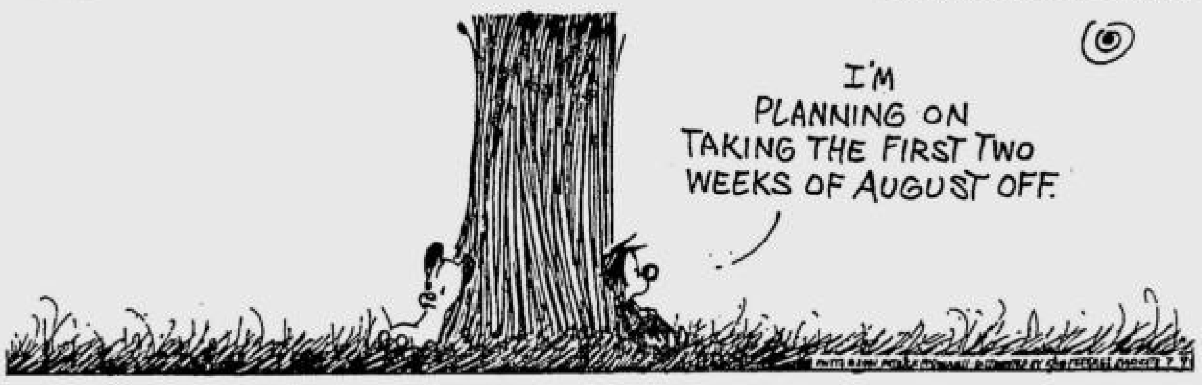
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MOM, I'M IN A BIND! I NEED A FAVOR!
MY MOTHER/BABY GROUP IS MEETING THIS MORNING. IT'S MY TURN TO BRING SNACKS, BUT I CAN'T GO--I HAVE THIS LAST MINUTE MEETING!
OH DEAR...
I'M VOLUNTEERING AT THE HOSPITAL, SO I CAN'T MAKE IT EITHER...
DARN!
I'LL GO!
YOU WILL?!
YOU DID SAY THERE'D BE SNACKS DIDN'T YOU?
SHELTON

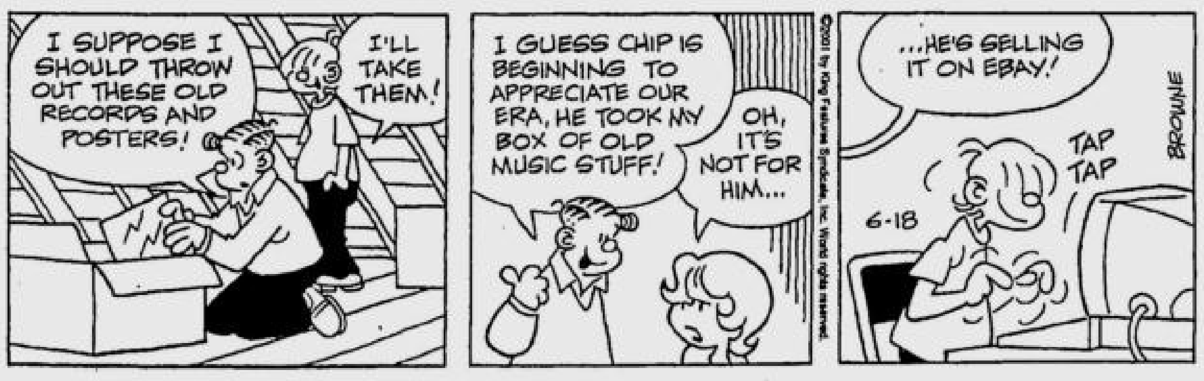
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'M PLANNING ON TAKING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF AUGUST OFF.

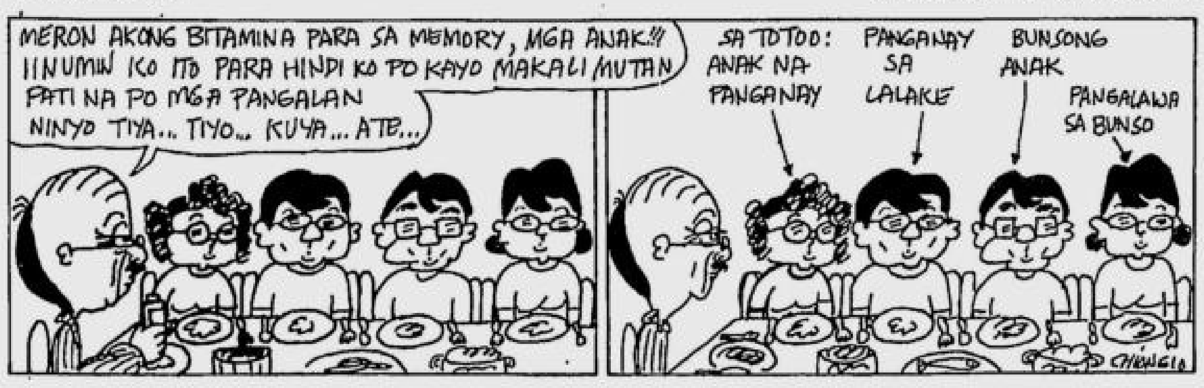
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I SUPPOSE I SHOULD THROW OUT THESE OLD RECORDS AND POSTERS!
I'LL TAKE THEM!
I GUESS CHIP IS BEGINNING TO APPRECIATE OUR ERA, HE TOOK MY BOX OF OLD MUSIC STUFF!
OH, IT'S NOT FOR HIM...
...HE'S SELLING IT ON EBAY!
TAP TAP
6-18
BROWNE

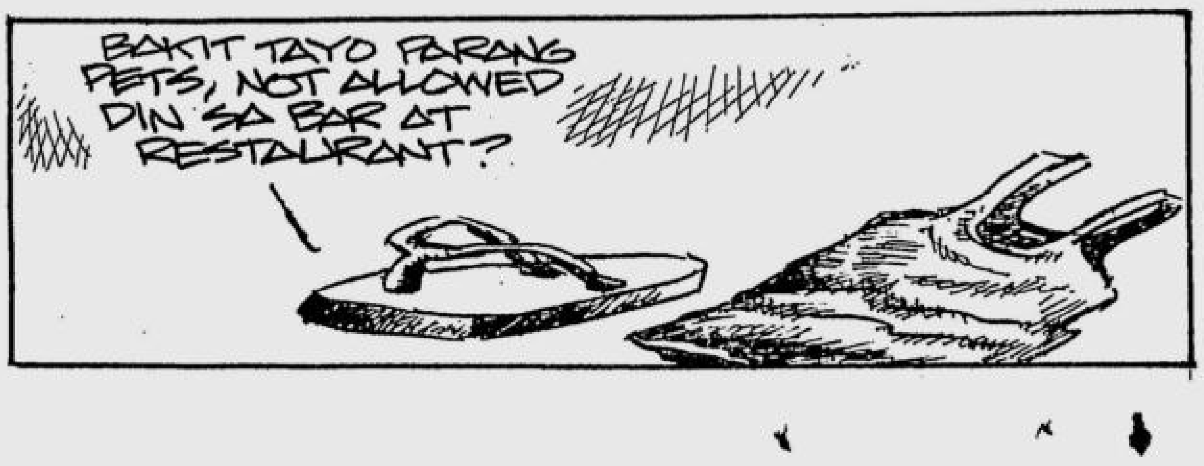
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MERON AKONG BITAMINA PARA SA MEMORY, MGA ANAK!!! IINUMIN KO ITO PARA HINDI KO PO KAYO MAKALIMUTAN PATI NA PO MGA PANGALAN NINYO TIYA... TIYO... KUYA... ATE...
SA TOTOO: ANAK NA PANGANAY
PANGANAY SA LALAKE
BUNSONG ANAK
PANGALAWA SA BUNSO
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT TAYO PARANG PETS, NOT ALLOWED DIN SA BAR AT RESTAURANT?

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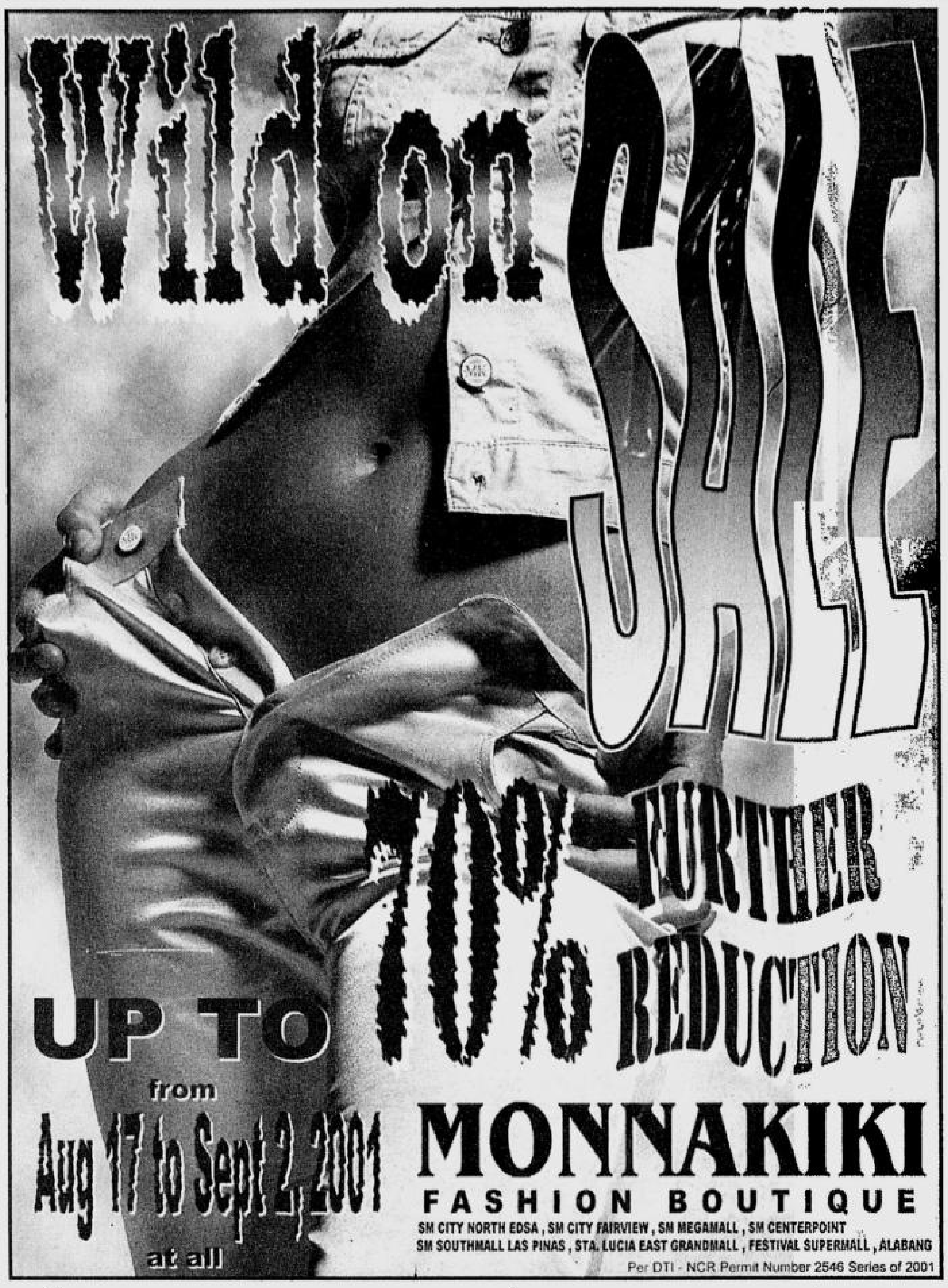

MONNAKIKI
FASHION BOUTIQUE
SM CITY NORTH EDSA , SM CITY FAIRVIEW , SM MEGAMALL , SM CENTERPOINT
SM SOUTHMALL LAS PINAS , STA. LUCIA EAST GRANDMALL , FESTIVAL SUPERMALL , ALABANG
Per DTI - NCR Permit Number 2546 Series of 2001

Playing beautiful music with AYO

BY MIGUEL CORNEJO

I DID not imagine that I would be a member of a world-class orchestra and perform 14 concerts, two of which would be in the magnificent Sydney Opera House. I never thought I would perform in front of 1,500 people who would give our orchestra a 10-minute standing ovation. Nor did I imagine that I would tour Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Vietnam and Australia with virtuoso violinist Cho-Liang Lin and the Beaux Arts Trio, a legendary name in the world of classical music. I decided long ago what I wanted to do with my life and my experience with the Asian Youth Orchestra (AYO) has convinced me that I definitely am on the right track.

THE AUTHOR and his cello

Almost 2,000 young musicians from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam audition every year for the AYO, and the little more than 100 who are selected attend an intensive three-week rehearsal camp followed by a three-week concert tour with international solo artists under the direction of world-renowned conductor Sergiu Comissiona.

In 1996, the AYO performed at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. After that concert, I dreamed that one day, I too, could be part of such a wonderful orchestra and perform beautiful music with other talented young musicians from Asia. Having played the cello for only four years, I auditioned for AYO in 1997 and, not surprisingly, was rejected. I knew that dozens of cellists from 10 other Asian countries who had been learning to play from a very early age would have better chances than I did. Disappointed but not losing hope, I continued my cello studies at the University of the Philippines and continued to improve on my orchestra-playing skills with the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra, based at the St. Scholastica's College of Music. Pursuing a career in music is no joke. It takes hard work, determination, patience and an unconditional love for music to succeed in this field. Having talent is important but it means nothing if one does not do anything to develop it to the best of one's abilities.

PLAYING/ p.D4

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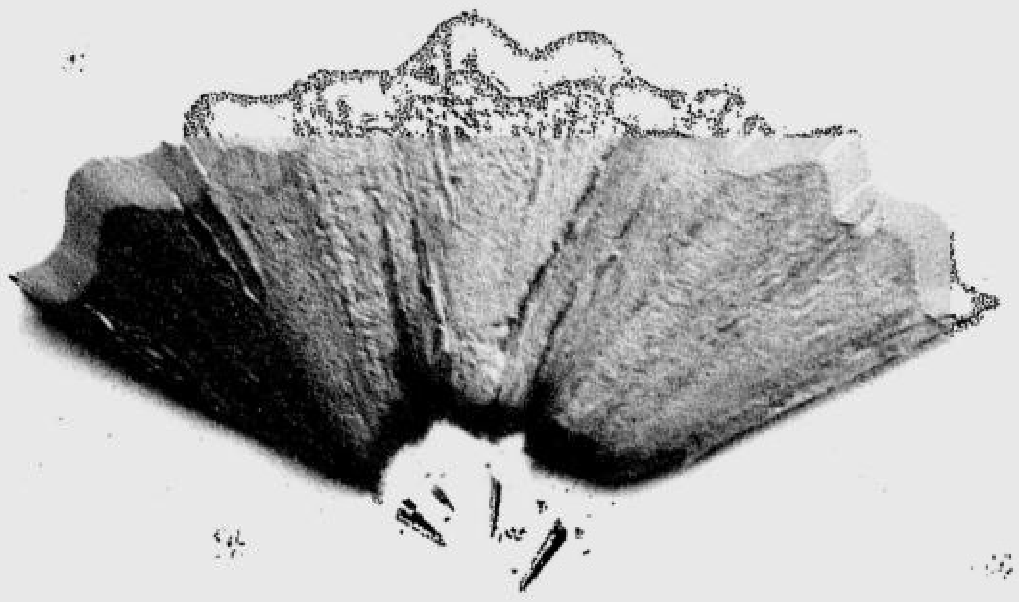
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Cardinal Sin, Cory and FVR to lead launching of Edsa II coffee-table book

PEOPLE POWER

ABS-CBN Publishing will launch its coffee-table book, "People Power 2: Lessons and Hopes," tomorrow, 5:30 p.m., at the Edsa Shrine, with Cardinal Sin officiating the rites. The guests of honor are former Presidents ,Corazon C. Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos.

What makes the book different from other People Power coffee-table books is its wide ranging compilation of photos from photojournalists from all over the country. It answers the questions what led the country to have a second and probably third people power revolution, and what are the "lessons and hopes" to be drawn from them. It has revealing behind-the-scene accounts of events leading to Edsa II. The book looks at the event from different angles—from the Church's to the military's and the Leftists'.

The essays are from experts in the various fields: Msgr. Soc Villegas and journalist

CARDINAL/ p.E3

CARDINAL FIGURE. Manila Archbishop Jaime Sin, the hero of Edsa I and II, will celebrate a Mass to mark book's launch.

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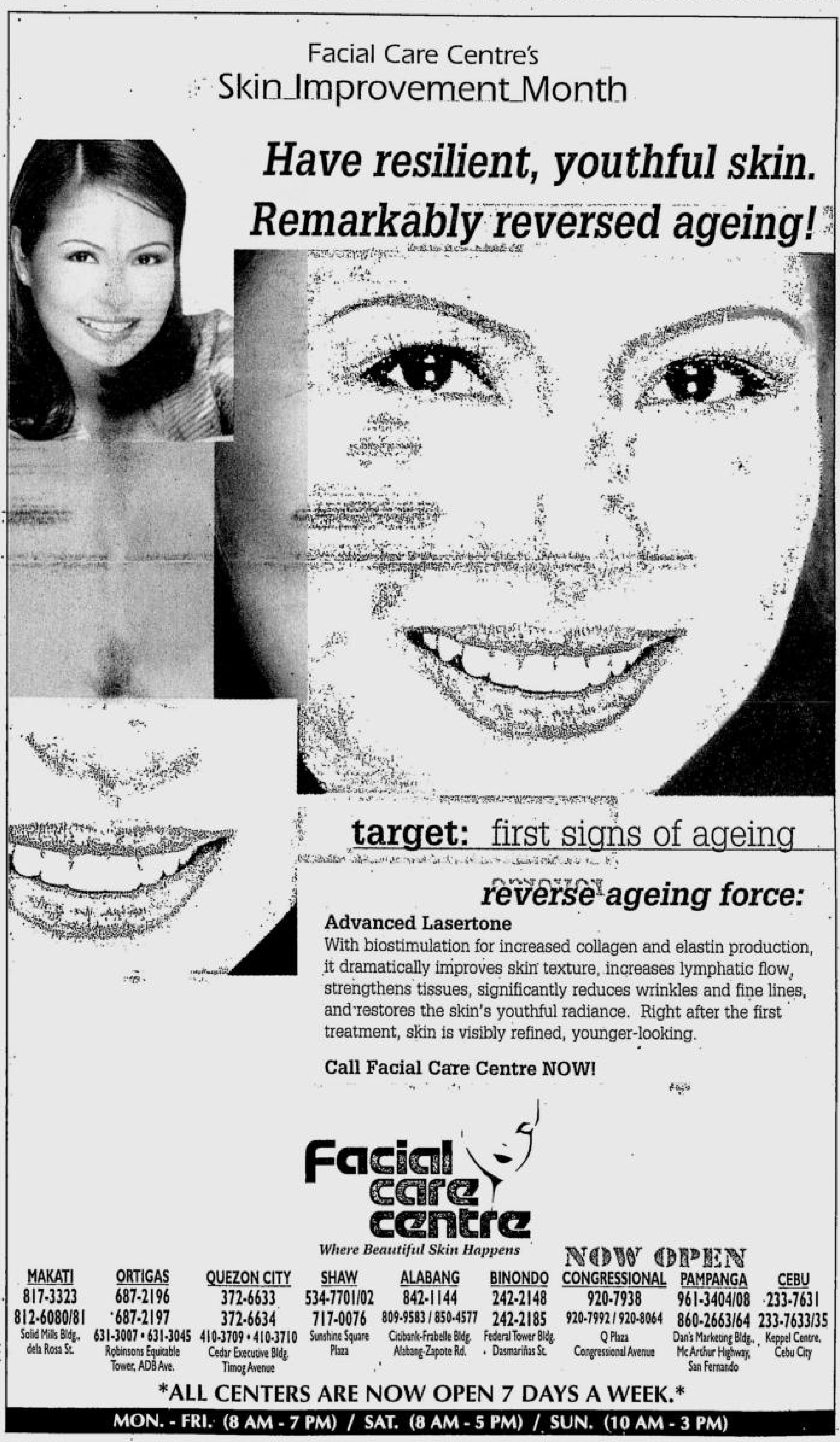
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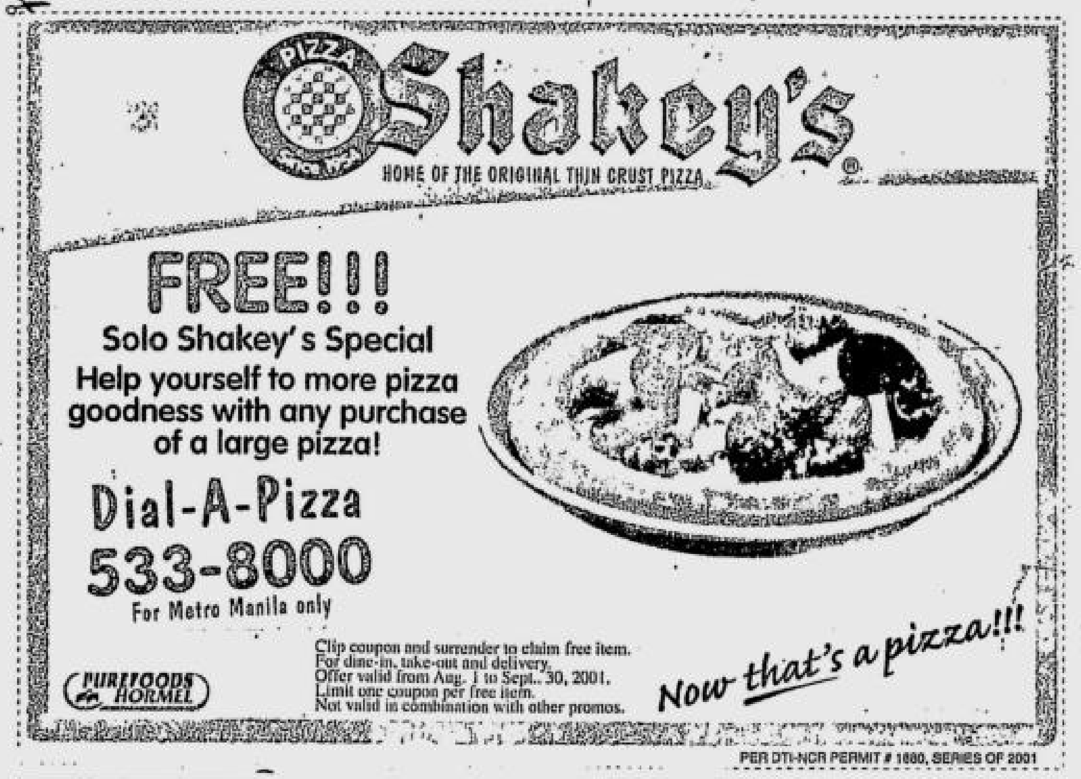
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Miracle healings still occur in Lipa

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

AS a way of honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary on her feast on Aug. 15 under her title Our Lady of the Assumption, let me tell you that miracle healings continue through the intercession of Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace.

My friends and I were in Lipa for the Holy Mass at 9 a.m. on Aug. 4, first Saturday. It was only my third visit to Lipa and I found many people there who had driven all the way to this town to venerate Our Lady during Mass at the Carmelite Monastery where the Virgin appeared to the novice Teresing Castillo in 1948.

Sister Bernadette, OCD, keeps a record of testimonies of healing that took place from that date until now. I did not have to go too far because Sonny Siytangco, husband of newshen Deedee Siytangco, was healed of rheumatic fever when he was a young boy and brought by his parents to Lipa during the height of the apparitions and the shower of roses from heaven.

Then, there was the miraculous healing of TV and movie actor Subas Herrero in 1998 after he suffered a stroke on April 3 of that year. Subas suffered two blood clots in his brain and was in a coma for a while.

In a long story published in the PDI on Nov. 8, 1998, Subas described in detail how the Lord healed him through the intercession of Mary and St. Joseph.

Healer Bebette Gaston told me that she prayed over Subas when he was very sick and asked Our Lady of Mediatrix of All Grace to intercede for his healing. During the healing, Subas said that he smelled the scent of roses.

When Subas visited the Carmelite Chapel in Lipa on the first Saturday of May 1998, he was on a wheelchair. While sitting there, he felt someone sit beside him. It was Sister Teresing who approached him. Again, he smelled the scent of roses.

Much later, when he was completely healed and could walk and drive again, Bebette and Sister Teresing told him that it was time that he started healing.

And that was how I found Subas—in the Marian Center across the Carmelite Monastery, heading a long line of people who patiently waited for their turn.

Although there is no Church recognition on the Lipa apparitions, which counted to 15, according to Maria S. Ignacia, SFCC, in her book "The Gentle Woman: Mary to the Filipinos" published by Pauline Center, people continue to make pilgrimages to Lipa.

We visited Sister Teresing on Aug. 2, feast of the Queen of the Angels, in her house where she lives with her adopted daughter, Grace Castillo. Sister Teresing, who is now 74 years old, told us that the late Bishop Mariano Gaviola formed a commission of bishops and priests in 1987 to investigate the Lipa apparitions. She appeared three times to testify. After that, nothing has been heard from the commission.

Bishop Gaviola passed away in 1997. Bishop Salvador Quizon is now in charge. Things are looking up though, because Sister Teresing has been given permission to give talks when invited and tell people what happened in 1948. She also does healing at the Marian Center on first Saturdays when she feels well.

ACTOR Subas Herrero with healer Bebette Gaston at the Marian Center in Lipa City

Virgin Mary image with wings

WHEN the Mission Society of the Philippines organized the pilgrimage to the different churches in Laguna, they discovered Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Santa Maria, Laguna. The image of the Virgin bore wings. Her feast is on Aug. 16.

At least there busloads of pilgrims went with the priests. They left Makati at 5 a.m. They were back in Manila by 8:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Salvation feast

JOROAN town'in Tiwi, Albay will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Salvation on Aug. 18. It will be a special celebration because Aug. 18 will mark the silver anniversary of the canonical coronation of the Virgin. There will be a maritime procession. The rector is Fr. Pani Ante.

St. Maximilian Kolbe feast

ST. MAXIMILIAN Mary Kolbe, founder of the Militia de Immaculata, will be honored with a High Mass on Aug. 14 (his feast) at 11 a.m. at the St. Maximilian Seminary at 22 John Paul St., Multinational Village, Parañaque. Procession is in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, the parish shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe celebrated his feast on Aug. 12 with a Mass at 10 a.m. in Greenfields I, Novaliches, QC.

The new members of the Militia de Immaculata were imposed with the Miraculous Medal by Fr. Stephen Bejo, OFM.

Mass and confirmation took place with Bishop Teodoro Bacani presiding at 3 p.m. at the same parish. St. Joseph Formation House in Tagaytay City also held a Mass on Aug. 12 with Fr. Dominic Lim as celebrant.

St. Maximilian Kolbe inspired many people with his devotion to Mary. The saint founded the Militia de Immaculata on Oct. 16, 1917 in Rome with six other seminarians. What inspired the young Kolbe to do this was the conversion of the Jewish agnostic Alphonse Ratisbonne.

Ratisbonne, however, was persuaded by a friend to wear the Miraculous Medal and recite the "Memorare" prayer. One day, Our Lady appeared to Ratisbonne in a brilliant light at the Church of St. Andrea delle Fratte in Rome.

Ten days later, Ratisbonne was baptized by Cardinal Patrizi. He later became a priest and a missionary to the Holy Land where he is now buried in the village of Ein Karem where Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth.

Thousands of people now are members of the Militia de Immaculata. They follow the motto set by St. Maximilian: "Through Mary Immaculate to Jesus."

Those who wish to become members can e-mail MI@consecration.com or call Fr. Stephen Bejo at 826-0898 or 829-4979.

Herminia Diana's healing time

AT LEAST 200 people attended the healing of visionary Herminia Diana at the Queen of Peace Parish in Queen's Row, Bacoor, Cavite. Many also attended the praying of the "2,000 Hail Mary's." The next date for healing is Aug. 16 at 8 a.m., after the last Mass in the morning.

Marian exhibit

ARCHITECT Ben Soriano wrote that there is a Marian exhibit at the Holy Family Church on Madre Silva and Lilac Streets, Roxas District, QC.

The Queen of Peace newspaper was used as a basis for the materials of this exhibit. The objective is to make more people aware of the value of the Eucharist.

Happy anniversary, BPI

I'VE been a depositor of the Bank of the Philippine Islands since 1979. Doing things the right way is the bank's motto. Congratulations to the staff of BPI Malate and BPI Harrison Plaza headed by Jesse Demonteverde who never fails to go out of his way to help a client. Happy 150th anniversary!

Lecture by Lumbera

RAMON Magsaysay Awardee for Literature Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera will lecture on the state of Philippine arts and culture on Aug. 15, 4.30 p.m., at National Bookstore in SM Manila. The lecture is part of the month-long celebration dubbed "Celebrating the Creative Filipino" spearheaded by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, National Bookstore, PowerBooks and Anvil Publishing. A dance presentation by Myra Beltran will follow after Dr. Lumbera's feature. Students and teachers of Philippine literature are all invited to attend.

UP deadline extended

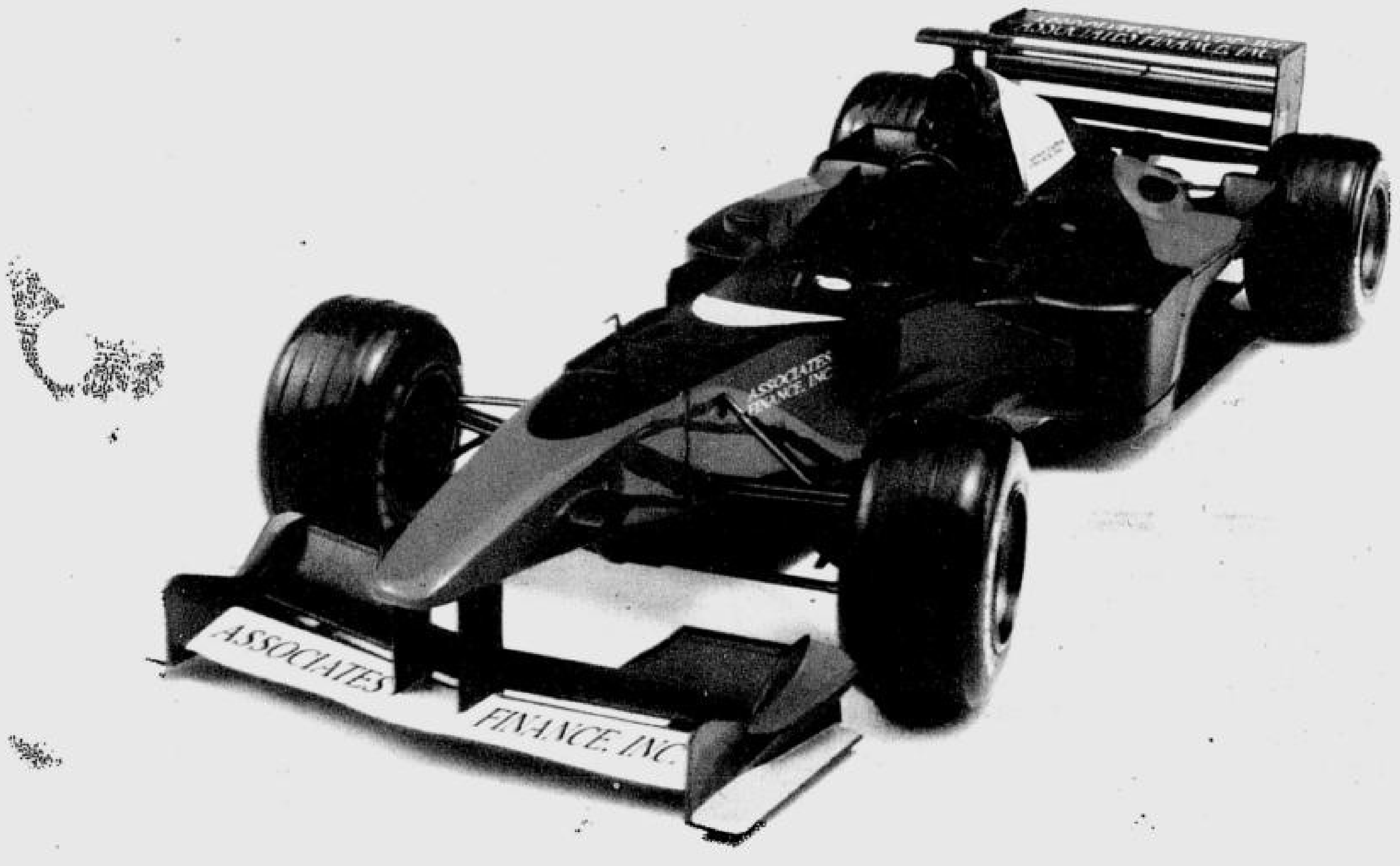
LIKHAAN: The UP Creative Writing Center (UP CWC) announces that deadline for the 39th UP National Writers Workshop in UP Mindanao, Davao City on October 2001 has been extended to Aug. 20. Only writers based in the Visayas and Mindanao are eligible.

Entries in the following categories will be accepted: short story, poetry, one-act play or teleplay. Applicants may submit either six poems or two short stories, two one-act play or two teleplays. Fellowships are awarded by genre and by language, hence, all entries consisting of four poems and one short story in English, or one story in English and one story in Sugbuanon, will not be considered. Experimental literary forms are also accepted.

Applicants should submit, under a pseudonym, four hard copies (computer-encoded, double-spaced, collated) and a computer diskette copy (MS Word 6) of the manuscripts. These should be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the author's real name and pseudonym, an application letter, a 2x2" ID photo, résumé and attestation of originality (i.e., that the entries are original works and/or adapted or translated from other materials, whether local or foreign). All entries in Sugbuanon, Hiligaynon and Waray should also be accompanied by competent English or Filipino translations. Incomplete submissions will be disqualified. Fellows of pervious UP workshops need not apply.

All applications must be sent to: Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, UP CWC director or UP National Writers Workshop, Likhaan: UP Creative Writing Center, Bulwagang Rizal, UP Diliman, QC, 1101.

Call Prof. Leoncio Deriada (UP Visayas) at 338-1534 or chancellor Ricardo de Ungria (UP Mindanao) at 293-0310.



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Cardinal Sin, Cory and FVR to lead launching of Edsa II coffee-table book

(From page E1)

Joselito Zulueta on the Church; Prof. Carolina Hernandez on the defense establishment; Winnie Monsod on business; Calixto Chikiamco on the political economy; Education Secretary Raul Roco on education; Jose Javier Reyes on entertainment; Dr. Cynthia Bautista on the middle class; Ramon Villegas on class conflict; Jorge Bacobo on the Senate; Jessica Zafra on the youth; Ging Velez on civil society and Satur Ocampo on the Left. There's also an essay by Jose Dalisay Jr.

"People Power 2: Lessons and Hopes" has the reputable editorial teamwork of Thelma Sioson San Juan as editor, Noli Yamsuan as photo editor and An Mercado Alcantara as managing editor It is designed by Onate & Perez Inc. The project is headed by ABS-CBN Publishing's president Eugenio Lopez III. The book is published by ABS-CBN Publishing Inc. with Security Bank Foundation.

All sales during the launch will come with a free VCD of "The Correspondents: People Power 2." The book will be available next week at major bookstores nationwide. Call 631-9345.

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Greetings from the Province of Palawan!

The Province of Palawan is often called the Philippines' "Last Ecological Frontier" because it is still relatively sparsely populated with lush forests covering two-thirds of the terrestrial environment and extensive coral reefs, mangroves – habitat to myriad marine creatures and a long coastline. It boasts of white sand beaches, crystal clear waters, majestic limestone cliffs and scenic landscapes covered by a green canopy of different plant species and vegetation.

Moreover, our indigenous culture dates back to more than 20,000 years as evidenced by fossils of the Tabon Man discovered by anthropologists and archaeologists in one of the caves in Quezon, Palawan. This significant anthropological discovery earned for Palawan the title "Cradle of Philippine Civilization".

Palawan's citizenry is linked to a culture that breeds and promotes a stable peace and order situation and natural love and caring for the environment.

All these distinctive features make for a perfect "tourism" setting, which is considered as the foremost industry in Palawan. Most visitors come to Palawan almost solely for its natural wonders and splendors.

Palawan's quiet and peaceful setting was marred by the recent kidnapping incident that occurred in the City of Puerto Princesa. But this is an isolated case. Unfortunately, national media has sensationalized the incident resulting to baseless fears of prospective travelers. I urge you not to get affected by the misleading news being released by the media. Contrary to reports, Palawan remains to be peaceful and safe, as it has been for the past century.

But in response to the situation, security measures have been put in place in all tourist destinations. All resorts have augmented their security forces while the military and police are now more visible in both land and sea. We have also marshaled the local communities to actively participate in the community-based intelligence networking for immediate reporting of suspicious-looking elements to local officials, the police and military for validation and action.

Furthermore, I would like to assure the travelers that the general well-being of all tourists will be given our highest priority.

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Governor

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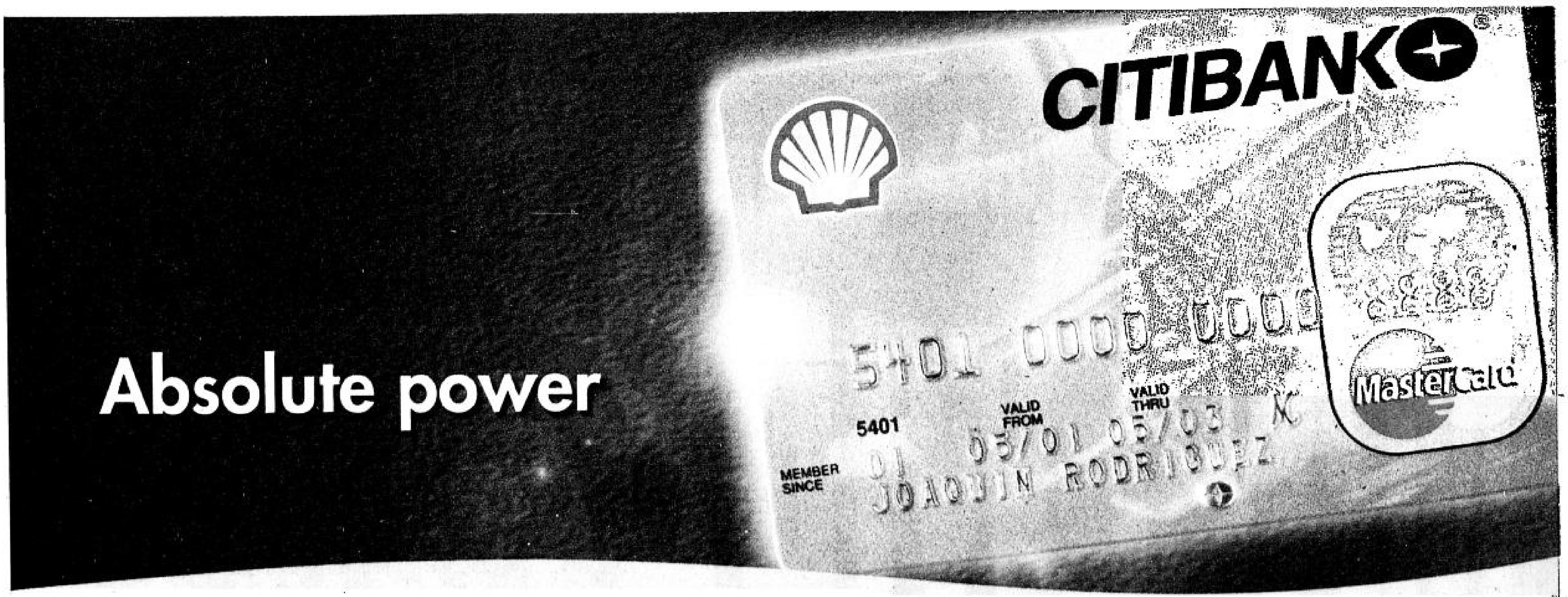

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